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Praying for more cash?

UNUSUAL Police say an armed robber in Indianapolis spent nearly 10 minutes on his knees praying with a clerk at an Indianapolis cheque-cashing business before fleeing with $20 from the register.

Police say the robbery took an unusual turn after the gunman came around the counter when the clerk started crying and talking about God.

The man said he had a two-year-old child to support and asked for prayers about overcoming his hardships.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Relating pg 21

Playing dress-up can be sexy

SmallBusiness

Metro's series on Small Business Week will explore current issues affecting small businesses as well as profile successful small business owners. See page 22 for more.

On the web
Visit metronews.ca for news updates

Pretty in pink **Fashion**

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A model walks the runway yesterday at the Katrina Tuttle show during Toronto Fashion Week. See metronews.ca for reviews, blogs and more from Toronto Fashion Week. More coverage, page 36.

Shot in the arm

Swine flu vaccine approved

Flu Outbreak

Canada's largest-ever immunization campaign is ready to go, now that the federal government has approved the swine flu vaccine.

Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq announced yesterday the vaccine has been approved for use in Canada, allowing provinces and territories to proceed with H1N1 flu shots as soon as possible.

"We now have a safe and effective vaccine being distributed to provinces and territories that they will be rolling out in a matter of days," Aglukkaq told a news conference.

"I encourage all Canadians to get vaccinated because it is the best way to protect our health and the health of our loved ones."

Other countries have already begun vaccinations.

In Canada, priority for the swine flu shot has been assigned to pregnant women, health workers, young children, people living in remote places, and adults with chronic conditions — the groups most vulnerable to the H1N1 virus.

Local health authorities will ask people at lower risk to wait until people at higher risk get the shots. But Canada's chief public health officer, Dr. David Butler-Jones, acknowledged the vaccinations are "not a rationing exercise" and no one will be turned away.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Second wave

- Only one-third of those polled earlier this month in a Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey say they will get the shot, compared with 45 per cent in late August. But that could change now that the second wave of the H1N1 flu appears to have hit parts of Canada.

City's mass flu clinics won't open until next month

Even though Ontarians in high-risk groups can start rolling up their sleeves Monday to get the swine flu vaccine, Toronto residents will have to wait.

The city's 10 mass immunization clinics won't open until Nov. 2, said local health officials. City staff who are health-care workers and caregivers to ill people will be able to get the vaccine Monday.

The public clinics will stay open for about six weeks, and if demand is high, the city will consider opening more locations, said Dr. Barbara Yaffe of Toronto Public Health. The city has also sent letters to hospitals, nursing homes, jails and about 4,000 doctors inviting them to deliver the vaccine to their staff and patients.

Some pregnant women, who were supposed to be at the front of the line for the vaccine, may also have to wait.

The H1N1 shot intended for pregnant women is not expected to be available for at least two more weeks, said Dr. Arlene King, Ontario's chief medical officer of health.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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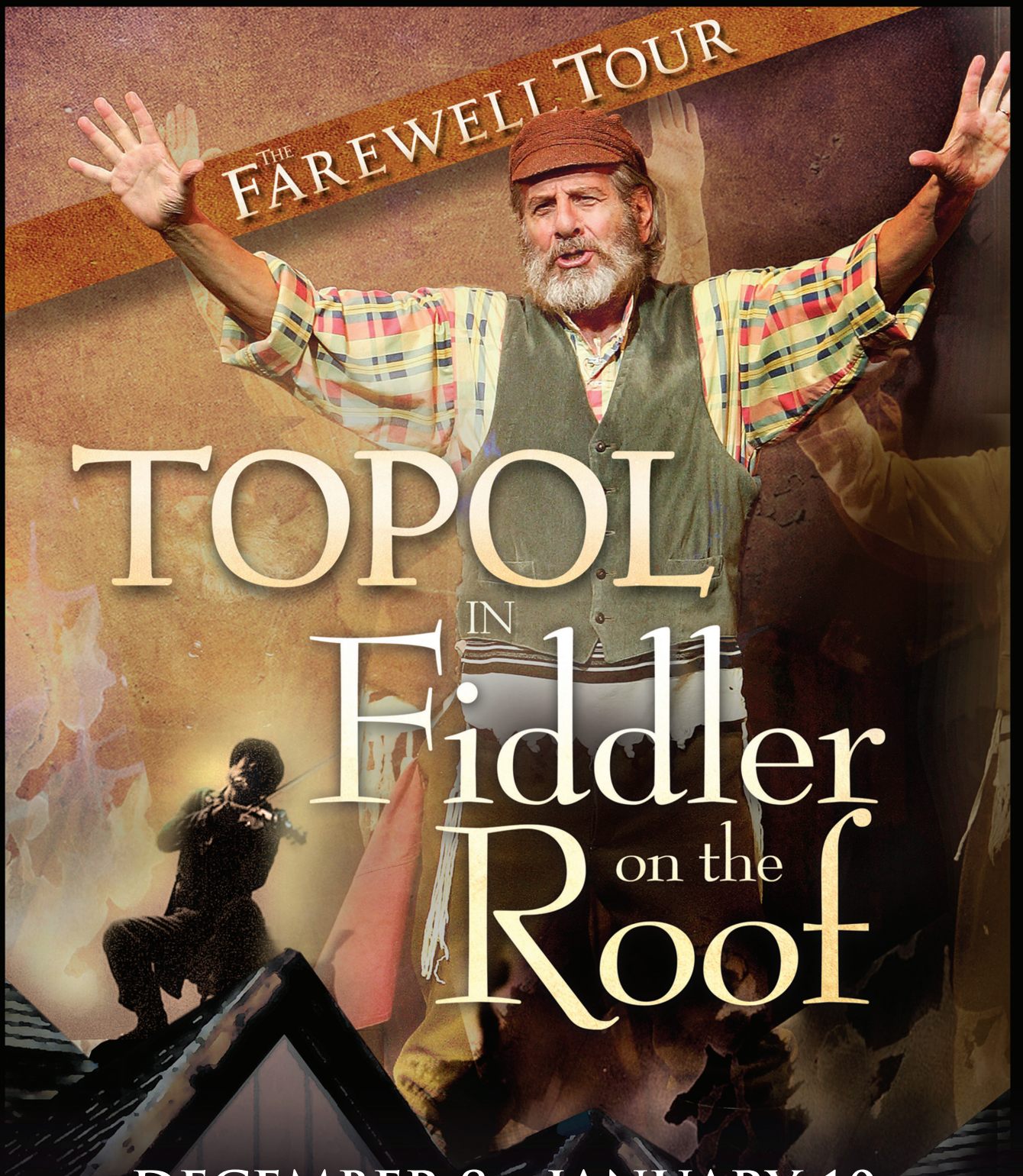

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SCANLIFE

Local

Baby Kaylee could have a sibling

Baby Kaylee's parents are expecting another child in about seven months. Jason Wallace and Crystal Vitelli's first-born became known as Baby Kaylee in April when her parents — fearing she would soon die of a rare genetic condition — offered her heart to another sick infant. Kaylee rallied and her parents took her home, but she is currently back in hospital, where she has been for three weeks after suffering recurring seizures. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tomorrow's Metro

Urban Compass

Former mayor of Toronto, John Sewell, breaks down the issues affecting Torontonians.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Canada prepares massive immunization program to combat second wave of H1N1 at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Preparations begin for the start of the Olympic torch relay in Greece at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Results not available at press time.

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Executives get pep talk

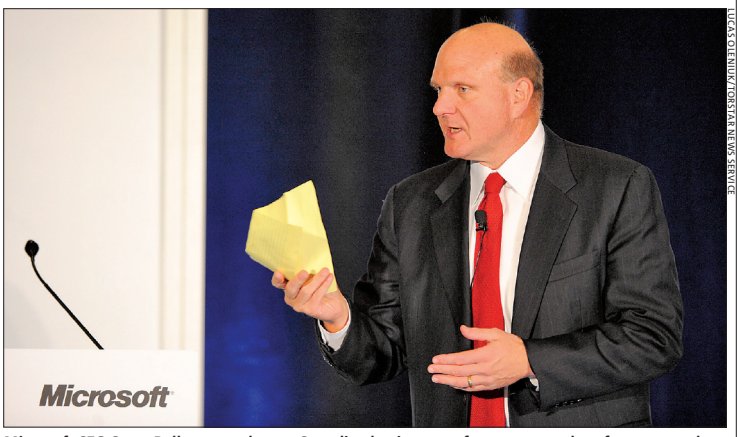
Now is not the time to be conservative: Microsoft CEO

Microsoft Corp. chief executive Steve Ballmer has a little advice for Canada's businesses and governments: Be careful not to let a battered and weakened economy frighten you away from vigorously investing in tech sector innovation.

Ballmer told business leaders during a speech in Toronto yesterday that the technology industry must be focused on driving growth — and not just cutting costs — even as it deals with the impact of revenue declines that came with the recession.

"You cut costs because you have to and the money you have left you invest smartly for growth," the 53-year-old CEO of the software superpower told business executives at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

"Now is not a time to be conservative, in my opinion, about those topics. Now is the time to make those bets that will drive innovation, that will drive your growth and growth in the economy."



LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer speaks at a Canadian business conference yesterday afternoon at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

He added later that Canada will find growth through small startup companies as larger corporations scoop them up and place their stake in certain regions.

Ballmer's comments came a day before Microsoft releases the Windows 7 operating system to consumers. The new system is the follow-up to Windows Vista, which was poorly received by both critics and the market when it was released more than two years ago.

Ballmer also added that governments should play a role by increasing supporting for education in science and technology at high schools and universities. He complimented Canada's immigration initiative, which allows foreigners with needed technology and other skills to move to Canada more quickly.

"The Canadian government is more welcoming of getting the best and the brightest from around the world than the U.S. government," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NUMBERS GAME, PAGE 24

CRTC rules on Net throttling

INTERNET The federal regulator will continue to allow Canada's big telecommunications firms to restrict traffic on their Internet networks, but under new and potentially strict rules.

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission chairman Konrad von Finckenstein characterized the decision as trying to strike the correct balance between competing interests.

"I doubt you will ever have unlimited capacity that can accommodate everybody," he said.

"I doubt you will ever have unlimited capacity that can accommodate everybody."
CRTC chief Konrad von Finckenstein

In its decision, the CRTC said it would like Internet providers to invest in increasing capacity; manage traffic through higher charges on heavy users rather than limit traffic; and give retail customers 30 days notice if they need to resort to throttling, and wholesale customers at least 60 days.

The regulator also said ISPs cannot discriminate against wholesalers who purchase broadband in bulk and sell it retail.

The commission has also established a complaint mechanism for consumers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

OAKVILLE Politicians and residents in Oakville are pressing the Ontario government to back away from plans for a new power plant. Town council held a special meeting Tuesday night to plot a strategy in the fight against the 900-megawatt plant, scheduled to power up by the end of 2013. The site for the $1.2-billion TransCanada plant is about 400 metres from schools, daycares and homes. The province says it needs to replace lost capacity in the area since the Lakeview coal-fired plant was shut down in 2005. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Presto fare card to go live soon at Union

TRANSIT It will be Nov. 30 before the hoods come off the new Presto card readers that recently appeared at Union Station.

That's when the next phase of the new regional fare-card system will launch for about 500 commuters who board GO Transit at Oakville and Bronte.

The reloadable Presto smartcard, which will eventually allow riders to use a single fare card across nine GTA transit systems, was tested in Mississauga more than a year ago. The expanded program gives riders the ability to reload the card online, by phone or in person.

Twenty-seven card readers will operate at Oakville, Bronte and Union stations. Readers will also be added to 10 Oakville buses and at two TTC turnstiles at Union.

Commuters who want to participate will be able to apply in coming weeks, when Presto representatives will be on GO platforms providing information. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tow truck driver killed after being hit by cube van

A 54-year-old tow-truck driver was killed when he was struck by a cube van yesterday afternoon. Around 1 p.m. the man was standing outside of his truck on Weston Road near Fenmar Drive when he was struck. He was pronounced dead at the scene. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

McGuinty coy over cuts

Premier doesn't rule out 'Dalton Days' in provincial belt-tightening

The end of the recession marks the beginning of government restraint, warns Premier Dalton McGuinty.

As the Liberals table a fall economic statement today that will reveal a record deficit of more than $22 billion, McGuinty said it's time to think about a post-recession economy no longer fuelled by billions in stimulus funds.

That could well include unpaid "Dalton Days" for public servants, among other belt-tightening measures.

"Do we have the will, working together, to ensure that we have a bright future and make the appropriate decisions today?" the premier said yesterday. "What we're really setting out to do is ensure that we have the continuing capacity to support our public services."

While McGuinty was coy about what his government would do to staunch the flow of red ink, he left open the door to a revival of former NDP premier Bob Rae's "social contract."

"We're just beginning this discussion," he said, when asked by reporters if public servants should expect mandatory furloughs derided as "Rae Days."

Despite the mixed signals on cuts, the Liberals plan to move ahead next week with the long-awaited plan to phase in all-day kindergarten starting in September 2010.

"We know that, given the economic circumstances, we may not be able to do everything at once," conceded Education Minister Kathleen Wynne.

The premier was circumspect after a journalist said his gloomy rhetoric recalled Rae's in 1993 — when public service employees, including teachers, nurses, and bureaucrats, took 12 days of unpaid leave as a cost-saver.

"I don't know. We've all got our own particular approaches obviously," said McGuinty.

"I'll let people judge, but what I would say is that … the next several months will be very important as we come up to our own particular approach to this."

Salaries represent about 80 per cent of the provincial budget and account for three-quarters of all the money Queen's Park transfers to municipalities, universities, schools and hospitals. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Just another Dalton Day

- It's the third time since taking power in 2003 that McGuinty has mused about the possibility of "Dalton Days" — he did so early in 2004 after being confronted by a surprise $5.6 billion deficit, and again last February — and it was left to Finance Minister Dwight Duncan to lower the temperature.

Attendance a slow trickle at water budget hearing

WATER With budgets worth $1.5 billion on the table yesterday, only two Toronto councillors and two members of the public showed up before the budget committee to ask questions or air their views.

That meant the hearings on water and garbage budgets — both of which will hit residents with rate increases — wrapped up in less than an hour.

If council approves, water rates will rise by nine per cent this year — a $51 increase for a typical household, to $618.

The fee for a medium garbage bin will rise $5, to $44; the fee for large bins by $9, to $140; and extra-large bins by $8, to $198. Small bin users will get a $6 refund, down from $10.

Besides the budget committee members, only councillors Karen Stintz (Ward 16, Eglinton-Lawrence) and Janet Davis (Ward 31, Beaches-York) appeared to ask questions or make proposals.

Stintz queried whether the city's downspout-disconnection program should be altered. The city has ordered residents to disconnect eavestrough downspouts from the sewer system by the end of 2010 to prevent sewers from being overwhelmed during heavy rainstorms and backing up into basements. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

$51 Water rates could rise by nine per cent this year — an average of $51 per household — if a new water budget is passed.

Taxpayers 'owed an apology': eHealth chair

SCANDAL Taxpayers got an apology of sorts yesterday from the chairwoman of eHealth Ontario for a scandal involving the awarding of hundreds of millions of dollars in untendered contracts to consultants.

Top officials from scandal-plagued eHealth, including Chairwoman Rita Burak, and Ron Sapsford, the deputy minister of health, were called before the legislature's public accounts committee to talk about the agency's use of outside consultants.

"The very serious issue of untendered consulting contracts at eHealth Ontario has unfortunately taken focus away from the important issues of patient care and progress towards an electronic health record," Burak told the committee.

"It has also undermined the public's confidence in eHealth Ontario, and for this, I believe the people of the province are owed an apology."

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Deputy Minister of Health Ron Sapsford, eHealth chair Rita Burak and acting president Robert Devitt appear before a government committee answering questions about eHealth spending.

However, NDP committee member France Gelinas said she hoped Burak would follow through and actually offer an apology instead of simply saying people are owed one.

"It was nice of her to mention this, but it has yet to come," said Gelinas.

A recent report by auditor general Jim McCarter found Ontario got little value for the $1 billion the province has spent trying to create electronic health records, especially when it came to giving out lucrative untendered contracts to consultants. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Memorial for Skinner

DEATH A memorial service will be held today for Christopher Skinner, the 28-year-old who was brutally murdered early Sunday morning.

Detectives continue to review security footage taken from the Entertainment District and the Adelaide Street East area to find descriptions of the suspects and the vehicle they were driving.

Christopher Skinner

According to police, Skinner was confronted by at least two men in a black SUV near the intersection of Adelaide and Victoria streets around 3 a.m.

The men assaulted Skinner, returned to their vehicle and drove over him before fleeing east on Adelaide. Skinner died in hospital.

Despite the eyewitness accounts, police have not been able to release any descriptions of the suspects or the make and model of their vehicle.

Skinner had spent the night celebrating his sister's birthday at a bar and was walking home. Skinner's friends have suggested he was targeted because he was gay, but police say they have no indication the suspects were aware of his sexuality. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

POLICE Few expected a program putting police in city high schools would be easy, but the recent arrest of a teen at Northern Secondary School, which was broadcast on YouTube, has been the only real blip after more than a year. For some, it raises doubts about the mix of police and students under one roof, while others say the isolated incident doesn't reflect all 49 other schools. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Sears

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Police seek suspect after alleged sexual assault at mall

Toronto police released a security camera image of a man they say sexually assaulted a 15-year-old boy at the Scarborough Town Centre. A man, described as being in his 30s, approached the teen in a bathroom then led him to another part of the mall where a sexual assault allegedly took place. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

PM says he has no regrets about deficit

CONFERENCE Prime Minister Stephen Harper said yesterday there are signs of a fragile recovery for the Canadian economy, but warned there could be more job losses if the U.S. sputters.

"We shouldn't kid ourselves, we were pulled into this recession by events outside of our borders and we very much could get surprises," Harper said.

"We could still see some job losses."

Speaking during a question-and-answer session at an economic conference in Toronto, Harper said he believed the world was in the beginnings of a global recovery, but added it's one he would currently class "as very fragile."

"We can be optimistic but we should not be overconfident."

For the immediate future, he said, the focus has to continue to be on stimulating the economy.

The prime minister also said he had no regrets about posting a deficit, arguing it was the best move under the circumstances, and noted that several measures the government has taken will benefit the economy in the longer term.

"I actually do think we are in a rare period ... where deficits are not only necessary but actually advisable," said Harper.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce conference yesterday in Toronto.

Liberals accuse Tories of bias in spending

Toronto ridings get less recreation cash: Study

The federal government's $500-million stimulus fund for recreation centres, playgrounds and rinks has favoured Tories and shunned Liberal-dominated Toronto, a Liberal party analysis of spending in Ontario suggests.

Ontario ridings have received $190 million from the Recreational Infrastructure Canada Program, and the study says Conservative ridings received 34 per cent more of that money than Liberal and NDP ridings.

Toronto ridings, dominated by opposition MPs, received 60 per cent less than the average Tory riding, says the study.

$2.1M

In Ontario, Tory ridings received an average of $2.1 million each, while opposition ridings received $1.5 million on average.

The stimulus program, known as RInC, is smaller than other federal stimulus measures but is highly visible because it funds lots of small, local projects that communities crave. The money is meant to build or restore swimming pools, arenas, tennis courts, bike trails and other recreational facilities.

"It's very politically salient," said Liberal MP Gerard Kennedy, whose office compiled the data.

"Everybody has facilities and rec centres that need repair."

The Conservatives counter that the Liberals' numbers are flawed, although Kennedy says they have not cited any errors in particular.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier supports idea of creating all-boys school

EDUCATION Premier Dalton McGuinty is welcoming the idea of creating all-boys schools in Ontario's public education system.

McGuinty said he loves the fact that Chris Spence, the education director with the Toronto District School Board, is looking for creative ways to help boys improve their test scores.

He says all-boys schools would allow boards to develop a special curriculum that addresses the learning challenges they face.

McGuinty had not been in favour of a blacks-only school, but says boys only would be different because it would include students of all faiths, all colours and all ethnic backgrounds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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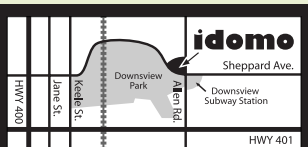

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Baby Kaylee family spokesman wants stab at Toronto mayor's job

A man who served as spokesman for the family of Baby Kaylee, at the centre of a transplant controversy in April, says he intends to enter the race to be Toronto's next mayor in 2010. J.P. Pampena, who has been blind since he was 24, calls himself the "Man with the Vision." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Giving a voice to the speechless

TECHNOLOGY Katie and Emily Suggitt take turns picking shoes, eyes, a mouth and nose as they put together their version of Mr. Potato Head, giggling as they watch their creation unfold.

"That looks silly," says Katie as her five-year-old identical twin adds a moustache, then hangs a purse from the toy's arm.

But the pronouncement doesn't come from Katie's mouth — it emanates from a computerized speech-generating device that has given the little girl a voice.

Katie was born with cerebral palsy, a condition caused by a lack of oxygen to the brain either before or during birth, which has left her with some physical weaknesses and developmental delays — including her ability to speak.

At Bloorview Kids Rehab in Toronto, where the twins both attend senior kindergarten, Katie is being taught to use the speech-generating device that's been custom-designed for her particular needs and development.

A monitor provides access to multiple screens, each with its own grid of 45 squares containing words paired with illustrative drawings or photos.

Designed to be set on a table or mounted to Katie's wheelchair, the device allows her to switch from screen to screen and touch a series of word-pictures to activate her "voice."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Communication

- The speech-generator is just one form of what's called augmentative and alternative communication. Other forms include sign language, gestures, eye gazes and pointing to objects or pictures.

False sense of freedom?

New media expert advises limiting BlackBerry use

Events planner Katherine Parris rarely shuts off her BlackBerry, mentioning just Christmas Day and Thanksgiving as examples of when she would turn it off. Couples get married on Christmas Eve, so the device is on.

"It can kind of come within your work and life balance," Parris said diplomatically.

Staff can email her to tell her how a corporate event unfolded, or if there's a problem, Parris says she can take care of it.

Prof. Rhonda McEwen of the University of Toronto said the BlackBerry and mobile communications in general are altering people's notions about time and making it flexible.

"If work was 9 to 5, the time itself was bounded by what was work and home," said McEwen, adding that regularly being contacted after work was "ridiculous" in the pre-BlackBerry era.

It's a false sense of freedom that workers sometimes have because "it's freedom to do more work," said McEwen, who teaches in the Faculty of Information Studies and specializes in new media and the information practices of young people.

It's up to individuals or organizations to set boundaries on how it should be used after work, McEwen said, noting that more than white-collar workers use it. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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New Brunswick, doctors come to agreement

The New Brunswick Medical Society and the provincial government have signed a new contract for doctors following almost a year of bickering and the threat of legal action. The deal includes annual wage increases of 3.75 per cent for four years, followed by a two-year wage freeze. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Driver going wrong way faces charges

Provincial police have charged a driver with drinking and driving offences after a vehicle going the wrong way on Highway 400 in Barrie, Ont., caused a car to hit a guardrail. Police say when officers arrived at the scene early yesterday, the driver of the vehicle on the wrong side of the highway had fled on foot. Barrie police helped arrest a man a short time later. Keith Cameron, 31, of Barrie, faces charges that include impaired driving, dangerous driving and failing to remain at the scene of a collision. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hostage-taking ends peacefully

Man surrenders after storming Edmonton Workers' Compensation Board office

A day-long hostage-taking that started with hundreds of office workers fleeing a disgruntled gunman ended peacefully yesterday evening with no injuries.

About 10 hours after the drama began, Edmonton police spokesman Dean Parthenis announced the armed man had surrendered without incident.

Insp. Terry Rochhio told reporters at the scene that eight people in all had been held. Negotiators convinced the man to let the hostages go one by one, with the last one being set free just half an hour before the gunman gave himself up.

The incident began when the man, armed with a rifle, charged into the WCB offices on the eighth floor about 8:45 a.m. yesterday.

As floor after floor of workers fled the building, some barricaded their doors. Police moved in and shut down a wide swath of the downtown near the Alberta legislature and initiated negotiations.

JIMMY JEONG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Edmonton Tactical officers prepare for action near the Workers' Compensation Board in Edmonton yesterday after a man with a rifle held hostages in the WCB offices.

People who live in the same assisted-living facility as the hostage-taker watched the situation and worried. The man's name wasn't released, but friend Don Bellerose said the man sent a text message to one of the nurses at the facility saying he was going to settle a score with the Workers' Compensation Board, but nobody suspected it would come to this.

The gunman was working in the concrete industry when he was injured on the job, Bellerose said. He was cut off benefits.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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No anthrax found in envelope: Cops

HAMILTON Police say an envelope that prompted a scare at a Hamilton group home has tested negative for anthrax.

The envelope was sent to Toronto for tests yesterday after an initial examination by hazardous materials personnel was inconclusive — because there was so little material in the envelope.

It was received by the executive director of the Beth Tikvah Group Home.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ELECTION Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada is accusing the media of "unwarranted pessimism" about his country's planned run-off election. Jawed Ludin says the extent of fraud in the presidential has been exaggerated.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

More coverage, page 17

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Manitoba Hydro faces special audit
Manitoba is speeding up a review of its provincial utility, Manitoba Hydro, after allegations of mismanagement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NAFTA is safe, envoy says

But Washington's man says U.S. may try to tweak it with side deals

The United States has no immediate plans to reopen NAFTA, America's new ambassador to Canada said yesterday.

David Jacobson told a business audience in Montreal that U.S. President Barack Obama is a "strong believer" in free trade.

But he added the White House remains interested in possible additions to the North American trade treaty that would benefit the environment and labour standards.

"I don't believe there is any interest at this point time in renegotiating the NAFTA treaty," he said.

"There may be, with respect to labour and the environment, side letters that may improve the situation from the perspective of all three countries.

"But fundamentally, our view of NAFTA is that it is working very well … for all sides."

Those words could reassure a business community unnerved by remarks about NAFTA by Obama during last year's presidential campaign.

Obama talked about reopening the trade deal while campaigning during the Democratic primaries.

While Obama raised the issue of side deals on labour and the environment shortly after taking office, his administration has since sought to temper the free-trade debate.

International Trade Minister Stockwell Day said these types of side deals are no cause for concern.

In fact, the two countries have already signed agreements on energy and environmental co-operation that did not affect NAFTA, he said.

"We don't have a problem with looking at ways we can see improvement on the labour side and on the environment side," he said.

"We can do that without renegotiating NAFTA. That's the main thing where most people have (breathed) a great sigh of relief."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

David Jacobson, U.S. ambassador to Canada, tells a Montreal audience that Barack Obama is a strong believer in free trade.

"Fundamentally, our view of NAFTA is that it is working well."
David Jacobson

Buy American? Talks are going on, but Day warns against 'ragging the puck'

New U.S. envoy David Jacobson also addressed the thorny issue of his country's Buy American provisions, which restrict Canadian companies' access to state and municipal public-works contracts.

He said he's well aware of Canada's concerns and "constructive" talks are ongoing.

"I understand the concerns in this country about the Buy American provisions," he said. "There have been a number of discussions as recently as Monday at very high levels between our government and your government in an effort to resolve these issues."

International Trade Minister Stockwell Day said the dispute shouldn't be allowed to drag on and he used a hockey analogy to make his case. He cautioned the U.S. against "ragging the puck." "You can't do that and win," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

When it comes to home renovations, a survey shows most people are less likely to use credit cards.

DIY'ers say cash is king: Poll

FINANCE Canadians are less likely to use credit cards to pay for home renovations this year than they were in 2008, a new survey shows.

More than three-quarters of respondents to the recent survey said they expected to pay cash rather than increase their debt.

The Ipsos Reid survey, conducted for RBC Royal Bank, found 76 per cent of respondents planned to pay for their home improvements with cash or savings.

That's up from 70 per cent who said they would pay in cash last year.

Conversely, fewer people say they would use a credit card to finance their renovation.

The number dropped to 24 per cent this year from 32 per cent in 2008.

"I think one of the reasons might be the downturn in the economy that we've experienced in the last year," Bernice Dunsby, senior manager of home equity financing at RBC, said yesterday.

"So I think Canadians are getting a lot more cautious when they are taking on renovations or home improvement plans.

"They are being smarter about how they're undertaking the financing piece of their renovations."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

World-beater Meg dies – at 113

CENTENARIAN Margaret Fitzgerald, a New Brunswick woman described by her family as the oldest known person in Canada, has died at the age of 113.

Fitzgerald, who had celebrated her birthday last month, died of natural causes at the Villa du Repos nursing home in Moncton.

According to Guinness World Records, she was believed to be among the 15 oldest people on Earth.

Her nephew, Reg King, said he remembers her as a hard worker who often thought about her days on a farm in Tankville, north of Moncton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

LOONIE Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says he is worried about the volatility of the Canadian dollar but does not see it as a sufficient threat to his policy of not raising taxes. Our loonie was at 95.6 cents US yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Naked toddler takes a walk on the wild side
Police in Halifax found a naked three-year-old boy walking along an on-ramp to the Angus L. Macdonald Bridge over the harbour at 1:30 a.m. yesterday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'He's not a psychopath'

Lawyer says biker had no massacre plan, but co-accused did

The alleged mastermind in the killings of eight fellow Bandido bikers is not a psychopath or a maniac, his lawyer told a court yesterday.

And the only reason Wayne Kellestine's southwestern Ontario farm played host to the biker gang massacre was because of the murderous intentions of a co-accused, Michael Sandham, the lawyer told a jury.

"I don't think I've ever represented somebody who's been called a psychopath and a maniac before," lawyer Clay Powell said.

"I ask you not to get hyped up in the rhetoric."

Kellestine, former Winnipeg police officer Sandham and four others have pleaded not guilty to eight counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of the Toronto bikers in 2006.

Several lawyers in the case have suggested there was no plan that night, a plan being a requisite for first-degree murder.

> **"I ask you not to get hyped up in the rhetoric."**
> Lawyer Clay Powell

Kellestine's lawyer Clay Powell suggested there was indeed a plan — it was Sandham's.

"Did Kellestine have anything to gain by those guys being killed? Not at all," Powell said.

"Sandham … had everything to gain."

Sandham's "ruthless" ambition to rise through the ranks of the Bandidos is what may have led him to spearhead the grim plan, Powell suggested.

Powell urged the jury to look past testimony that as the men were being killed Kellestine danced a jig and sang a Nazi song.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Revolt over Nortel **A forest of signs spells … anger**

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nortel pensioners and about 4,000 supporters rally in Ottawa yesterday. Their demonstration was aimed at highlighting the impact of the technology giant's bankruptcy and sell-off on the company's pensioners and on terminated and disabled employees.

Accused in kids' killings tells court wife cheated but he adored her

COURTS A B.C. man accused of killing his three children testified yesterday that he adored his wife, but believed she had repeatedly cheated on him.

Allan Schoenborn said his feelings for his estranged wife were "very genuine," but he believed she had been unfaithful with three different men.

Schoenborn, 41, is charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of the children.

They were found dead by their mother, Darcie Clarke, in their Merritt, B.C., home in April 2008.

The judge, hearing the case without a jury, has heard Schoenborn confessed to the crime, but the defence is arguing he should be found not criminally responsible due to mental disorder.

> **"I had the feeling I was being watched"**
> Allan Schoenborn

The Crown says the murders were an act of revenge against Clarke.

Schoenborn recounted yesterday a history of being admitted to hospital psychiatric wards.

Once, he said, he believed he smelled semen in the hair of his eight-year-old son Max, one of the children who died.

After that he didn't allow the child to play with the neighbours.

Schoenborn said he went to Merritt to see the children prior to their deaths.

He told the court he arrived in town drunk and went to the police station, "to say I know you know I'm here."

"I had the feeling I was being watched, anyway. By everyone," he testified.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SENIORS Canadian pensions continued to see growth from their investment holdings in the third quarter, but the improvement was more subdued than in the April-June period, says RBC Dexia Investor Services.

INQUIRY The nurse who admitted a mentally ill man to a Nova Scotia jail where he died says he didn't appear to be acutely ill when he arrived. Sandra McLeod told an inquiry into 45-year-old Howard Hyde's death that she knew he had been Tasered by police after he was arrested for an alleged assault. But he followed her directions, answered her questions and did not appear to be disoriented or agitated.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Arson blamed for bathhouse blaze in Winnipeg: Police

Police say arson was the cause of a bathhouse fire in Winnipeg that killed two men earlier this month. Steven Yablonski was asleep when the fire broke out at the Aquarius Men's Bath Oct. 11. Robert Clark of Saskatchewan also died from injuries he received when the blaze broke out on the top floor of the building. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man admits to killing Mountie

A man charged in the shooting death of a Mountie in the Northwest Territories two years ago has admitted he killed the popular officer.

But Emrah Bulatci's lawyer says her client didn't mean to cause the death of Const. Chris Worden in Hay River.

Bulatci, 25, got up in court at the start of his first-degree murder trial in Yellowknife yesterday and tried to plead guilty to manslaughter.

Worden was shot four times in October 2007 in a wooded area next to an apartment building near where Bulatci was dealing drugs. Court heard the second two shots killed the RCMP officer.

Defence lawyer Laura Stevens acknowledged in her opening arguments that Bulatci's first two shots from an illegal gun he had were deliberate, but said the second two were accidental.

The Crown outlined its case as well, saying it will argue that Bulatci fully intended to kill Worden, or was so reckless in his use of the gun that he as good as knew he was likely to kill the officer.

The prosecutor also pointed out Worden was driving a marked car and wearing his uniform. He never fired his gun, which was still in his holster.

Stevens told the jury there was no doubt Bulatci, who was from the Edmonton area, was a shady character. She said he was in Hay River, on the south shore of Great Slave Lake, to deal drugs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Emrah Bulatci, charged in the 2007 death of a Mountie in the Northwest Territories, tried to plead guilty to manslaughter.

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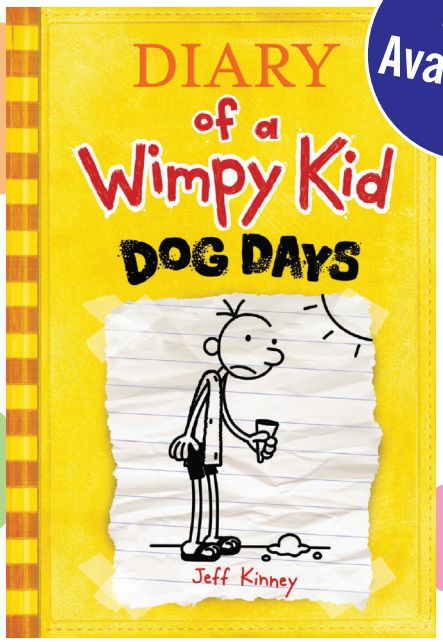

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Quebec opposition demands probe into mob, politician ties

MAFIA Political pressure mounted on the Quebec government as calls intensified for a public inquiry into ties between politicians, construction companies, and organized crime.

Opposition parties tabled a motion in the provincial legislature yesterday demanding an inquiry.

John Gomery — who led the historic inquiry into the federal sponsorship scandal — was omnipresent on Quebec's TV news networks also demanding a probe.

The calls for a new inquiry followed incendiary reports of the Italian Mafia and construction companies colluding to drive up the price tag on public-works projects in the province.

Premier Jean Charest fended off furious accusations from opponents who demanded to know why he'd resist such a demand.

"Why are you in politics?" Opposition Leader Pauline Marois asked him yesterday during a debate.

"Why is the premier in politics? To serve his own interests or to serve the people of Quebec?"

Charest angrily shot back that Marois was lowering the level of debate in the chamber, and said he'd let the police investigate before making any decisions about a probe.

"There are investigations — and I'm using the plural here — that have been going on for quite some time," the premier replied.

"We need to give police the chance to do their job. And if we (eventually) need to go farther, we will go farther."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Construction

- The push for an inquiry comes as news reports allege the Mafia has been co-operating with construction firms to jack up the prices of public-works projects.

Court battle ensues over canine

PET OWNER Earl Shadbolt never imagined he'd be battling in small-claims court for possession of his beloved pooch Willie, but with a former friend threatening to auction the terrier off, legal action was his final option.

The 75-year-old retiree left the alert cross-breed with Laura Naugler after a fire in April damaged his home near the mouth of Halifax harbour.

Naugler declined to return the dog in August after repairs were completed to Shadbolt's home.

Shadbolt said Naugler later told him she expected to be paid for keeping Willie at her home.

"I made her an offer and she didn't accept it," he said yesterday, adding he will not discuss figures.

"I've exhausted every other avenue to try and get the dog back, and I was just about to give up and somebody mentioned the cheapest route is to go to small-claims court."

He said he got a lawyer after a notice appeared last week saying the dog would be auctioned off by Naugler under provisions of the province's Warehousemen's Lien Act.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

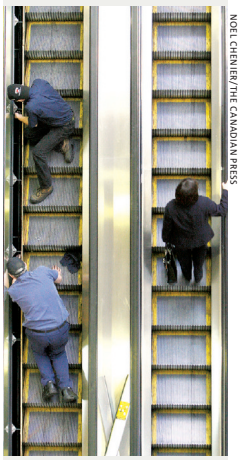
News in brief

MEDICARE The birthplace of medicare could see more private delivery of health services as the Saskatchewan government tries to tackle a backlog in surgeries. Premier Brad Wall says the legislative session, which starts today, will focus on improving health care, and that means looking at different ways to cut wait times.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Technology may help keep drugs out of jails
Nova Scotia has introduced new technology to keep drugs out of the province's correctional facilities. The ion scanners, in use at many airports across the country, can detect trace amounts of drugs and explosives on anyone who may have handled them. THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.B. Goin' down?


NOEL CHENIER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shoppers pass by Kone Inc. technicians Shane Dorey, bottom, and Mike White yesterday as they replace a handrail on the escalator that takes people to the second level from the third level at Brunswick Square in Saint John, N.B.

Squabble persists over torture secrets

A dispute rages over secret portions of an inquiry report on the overseas torture of three Canadians one year after release of the document, which criticizes the actions of security agencies.

Federal and commission lawyers are still squabbling about portions of the 544-page report the government balked at making public, citing national security concerns.

In his report released one year ago yesterday, former Supreme Court justice Frank Iacobucci found Canadian officials contributed to the torture of Abdullah Almalki, Ahmad El Maati and Muayyed Nureddin by sharing information — including unfounded accounts — with foreign agencies.

Iacobucci produced two editions of his report: One confidential version for government eyes only, and a second that was released publicly. But a small portion of the public report — Iacobucci says it amounts to a page or two — was held back because the government argued it could compromise security.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grave-like prison cells

- The three tortured men, all of whom deny involvement in terrorism, were abused in grave-like Syrian prison cells.

Senator puts blame on colleague

OTTAWA Tory Senator Leo Housakos, embroiled in an ethics controversy over a stimulus contract, is accusing one of his own Conservative caucus members of trying to trip him up.

Housakos blamed his troubles on "somebody in my own caucus," and said, "I'm going to take care of him soon," Montreal La Presse newspaper reported yesterday.

"I'm going to take care of him soon."
Leo Housakos, Tory Senator

The Senate Ethics Officer, at Housakos' own request, is looking into the matter of a Montreal engineering firm for which the senator worked, winning a $1.4-million stimulus contract.

BPR and a consortium will be studying possible repairs or reconstruction of the aging Champlain Bridge.

Housakos' accusations about his own party were greeted with some amusement by other members, who said privately he is wasting time looking for enemies in his own fold.

The 41-year-old senator wields important power in the party as one its key organizers in Quebec.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.B. woman sentenced for concealing newborn's body

A young New Brunswick woman has been sentenced to three months of house arrest for concealing the body of a newborn. Renée Chaisson also received a 12-month conditional sentence in court Tuesday along with three years of probation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hyperbaric oxygen scarce, hotly debated

Getting the recommended treatment for severe carbon-monoxide poisoning depends on where you live in Canada and who your doctor is, warn the country's specialists in hyperbaric medicine.

Putting a patient suffering from serious exposure to carbon monoxide inside a hyperbaric oxygen chamber is a recognized treatment for swiftly decreasing the amount of the gas in a person's system.

But only 10 hospitals in Canada have hyperbaric units, all located in major cities. The unit in St. John's, N.L., has been shut down since February because of staffing problems.

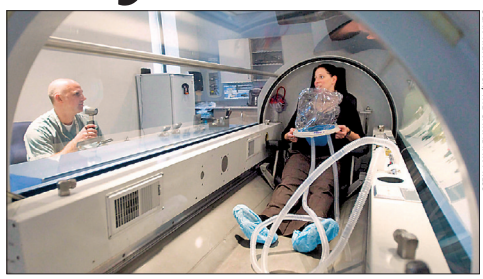
And a study to be published in Canadian Family Physician in January will suggest that an understanding of the uses of hyperbaric medicine is spotty among doctors in Canada.

Hyperbaric theory

- It expels harmful carbon monoxide (CO) more quickly from the body with the blast of oxygen.
- It can theoretically stop processes in the body that continue to inflict damage to brain cells and other areas even after the CO is gone.

Still, there's debate in the medical community about whether the chamber has any better effect on patients than oxygen administered with a mask.

A 2005 review of the body of literature on treating carbon monoxide through hyperbaric oxygen therapy suggested there is no solid evidence it is any more effective in curtailing brain damage than simply giving a person oxygen the regular route. THE CANADIAN PRESS



SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hospital staff simulate treatment in a hyperbaric chamber at the General Campus of the Ottawa Hospital last week.

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Irish firm buys Ontario mushroom business

The Essex-Kent Mushroom business of Rol-land Farms in southwestern Ontario is being acquired by a European company, which plans to spend $26 million to expand the operation.

"Accompanying the purchase is a long-term commitment to the development of the site," Ireland-based Monaghan Mushrooms said in making the announcement.

When expansion is completed in the fall of 2011, Monaghan says it expects to increase the 300-strong workforce at the facility in Campbellville, Ont., to between 400 and 500 employees.

Monaghan Mushrooms is a leading grower and marketer of mushrooms with 1,400 employees in Europe and bills itself as the market leader in the U.K. with a 45 per cent market share. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Seaplane firm chooses Canada

U.S. aircraft manufacturer Dornier Seaplane Company has decided to assemble its new composite amphibious airplane in Ontario or Quebec, creating at least 250 jobs over five years.

The Florida-based company has narrowed the list of possible locations to North Bay or St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, east of Montreal.

The two Canadian finalists were selected based on the availability of skilled labour, low real estate and infrastructure costs, the strong local aviation supply chain and proximity to nearby lakes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bolivian politician can campaign from jail

Bolivian election officials say a jailed opposition politician can campaign for vice-president from behind bars. Leopoldo Fernandez is being held without charges while authorities investigate a clash that killed at least 15 people on his state government's watch. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Man arrested for allegedly threatening Obama

A private security guard at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey was arrested on charges of threatening Barack Obama the night before the president was to fly there. An airline employee reported overhearing John Brek make threatening comments at an airport coffee cart Tuesday. The 55-year-old security guard was arrested several hours later, New York-New Jersey Port Authority spokesman John Kelly said. Obama was scheduled to be in New Jersey yesterday. Brek allowed police to search his home and officers found 43 firearms, Kelly said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran may ship uranium abroad

NUCLEAR A top Iranian negotiator praised a plan yesterday that would ship most of his country's uranium abroad for enrichment and limit its ability to build a nuclear weapon. There was no guarantee, however, that Tehran's leaders would accept the idea. At the end of three days of talks, International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei said representatives of Iran and its three interlocutors — the U.S., Russia and France — had accepted his draft agreement for forwarding to their capitals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

- Alan Sailer is a double shooter: Blasting objects with a gun while photographing the moment. Interview and photos at **metronews.ca/world**

A-Twitter about the wall

Berlin ready to celebrate 20th anniversary of historic fall

The Berlin Wall is gone, but people can still tag their memories on it online.

The Berlin Twitter Wall, which went online Tuesday, encourages people to share their memories of the wall's collapse and hopes for the future on a scrolling wall using Twitter, the social networking site.

By yesterday, there were more than 100 comments in Spanish, English, German and French. Some said they were too young to remember the fall of the Berlin Wall on Nov. 9, 1989.

East Germany began construction of the barrier Aug. 13, 1961, in an attempt to stop the dramatic flight of people to the West.

The website www.berlintwitterwall.com scrolls messages along a backdrop of the East Side Gallery, a famous stretch of the wall still standing and painted with murals. Visitors can also see pictures of the Domino Wall, about 1,000 pieces of 2.5-metre tall styrofoam painted with messages of peace by students, celebrities and politicians.

The Domino Wall will snake nearly two kilometres along the old wall line and be toppled during celebrations Nov. 9.

The online wall is part of events organized by Berlin to help mark the anniversary of the event that paved the way for a reunited Germany and Europe, and an end to the Cold War. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

In this Nov. 11, 1989, file photo, East German border guards are seen through a gap in the Berlin Wall after demonstrators pulled down a segment at Brandenburg gate.

Share the power?

AFGHANISTAN The United States would be receptive to a power-sharing arrangement between Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his election challenger if they agreed to it, Obama administration officials said yesterday.

Karzai and former foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah have settled on a Nov. 7 run-off following weeks of acrimony over Afghanistan's fraud-ridden national election. But both sides also are considering a coalition government that could either replace the run-off or follow it.

One senior U.S. defence official said a power-sharing deal at this point had equal odds of coming together or falling apart.

The administration is stressing that any such agreement is up to the Afghan government and the U.S. is not involved in any effort to forge or encourage it.

Karzai and Abdullah have largely dismissed the idea of sharing power, but there have been reports of private horsetrading discussions before and since Tuesday's announcement that the country would hold a run-off election Nov. 7.

Obama is still mulling how to shift strategy in the eight-year-old Afghanistan war, and the election mess has played a big role in his intensive, weeks-long discussions with his war council. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Car Insurance Roadblock

Consumers concerned insurers don't want drivers with tickets or accidents

Worried Your Spotted Driving Record Means You've Got Nowhere To Turn For Car Insurance?

Don't be. While it's true that, all things being equal, your tickets and accidents make you a more expensive risk to insure than a similar car and driver with a clean driving record, that doesn't mean you should have trouble finding insurance – assuming you know where to look. Different insurance companies target different types of business and this is reflected in things like their claims service, marketing efforts, discounts, and most importantly for you, their rates.

Can Some Insurance Companies Simply Refuse to Insure Some Drivers?

No. Since insurance companies have to file their rules and rates with the Financial Services Commission of Ontario (FSCO) they can only refuse drivers if they fall outside of the rules sent to FSCO. But what they *can* do is market themselves and set their rates such that they are more competitive for consumers they wish to attract (and, yes, less competitive for consumers they don't wish to attract). The result is that rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. Take a look at the table below.

Should I Just Accept That I'll Have To Pay A Bundle?

No. Sadly, this is a mistake many drivers make and it can be a costly one, especially if they don't bother to shop around for the lowest rate available. The key to finding the best rate, especially if you have tickets or accidents on your driving record, is to figure out which insurance company of the more than 30 in Ontario has the best rate for your particular situation. And with rates varying so wildly across companies, chances are you are not with the company that has the lowest rate for your profile right now.

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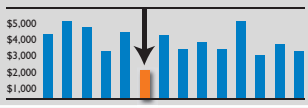
Rate Comparison

Driving Record	Lowest Price	Highest Price	Price Difference
Clean Record	$958	$2,213	$1,255
1 Ticket	$1,018	$2,552	$1,534
1 Accident	$1,849	$3,753	$1,904

InsuranceHotline.com finds this rate for drivers – for FREE!



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Internet helping United Nations' efforts

Online volunteers are playing an increasing role in assisting UN development efforts, cutting down costs of flying, an official said yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston terror suspect defiant in U.S. court

A pharmacy college graduate and teacher at a Boston-area Islamic middle school made a defiant appearance in U.S. federal court yesterday, hours after being charged with conspiring with two other men in a terror plot to kill two prominent U.S. politicians and carry out a holy war by attacking shoppers in U.S. malls and American troops in Iraq.

Authorities say the men's plans — in which they used code words like "peanut butter and jelly" for fighting in Somalia and "culinary school" for terrorist camps — were thwarted in part when they could not find training and were unable to buy automatic weapons, authorities said.

Tarek Mehanna, 27, was arrested yesterday at his parents' home in Sudbury, an upscale suburb of Boston.

Mehanna is a middle school math and religion teacher at a Muslim school in nearby Worcester.

Mehanna

When ordered by the judge to stand to hear the charge against him, he refused. He finally did stand — tossing his chair loudly to the floor — only after his father urged him to do so.

Prosecutors say Mehanna worked with two men from 2001 to 2008 on the conspiracy to "kill, kidnap, maim or injure" soldiers and two politicians who were members of the executive branch but are no longer in office. Authorities refused to identify the politicians.

Mehanna conspired with Ahmad Abousamra, who authorities say is now in Syria, and an unnamed man, who is co-operating in the investigation, according to authorities.

The three men often discussed their desire to participate in "violent jihad against American interests" and talked about "their desire to die on the battlefield," prosecutors said.

But when they were unable to join terror groups in Iraq, Yemen and Pakistan, they found inspiration in the Washington-area sniper shootings and turned their interests to domestic terror pursuits while they plotted the attack on shopping malls, authorities said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

BRITAIN A Briton who could possibly be the world's fattest man is due to go under the knife in an attempt to cut his weight, The Sun newspaper reported yesterday. The tabloid said 48-year-old Paul Mason weighs nearly 1,000 pounds, or 450 kilograms, which it claimed made him the world's heaviest man.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Google facing complaints over digital library project

Search engine powerhouse Google is facing complaints over its book-scanning digital library project. Authors say their copyrights are being violated. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

world 19

Taliban battle rages on

Soldiers fought for the Pakistani Taliban chief's hometown yesterday as they pressed an offensive along the Afghan border, while intelligence officials said U.S. missiles hit territory controlled by another insurgent, threatening to undermine deals that keep some militants out of the battle.

The five-day-old offensive in South Waziristan is considered a critical test of nuclear-armed Pakistan's campaign against Islamist extremists blamed for soaring attacks at home and on Western forces in neighbouring Afghanistan.

On Tuesday, suicide attacks killed six people at a university in Islamabad, leading Pakistan to temporarily close all educational institutions.

The military is advancing on multiple fronts in South Waziristan, a tribal region home to al-Qaida fighters and Taliban insurgents who have focused on overthrowing the U.S.-allied Pakistani government.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

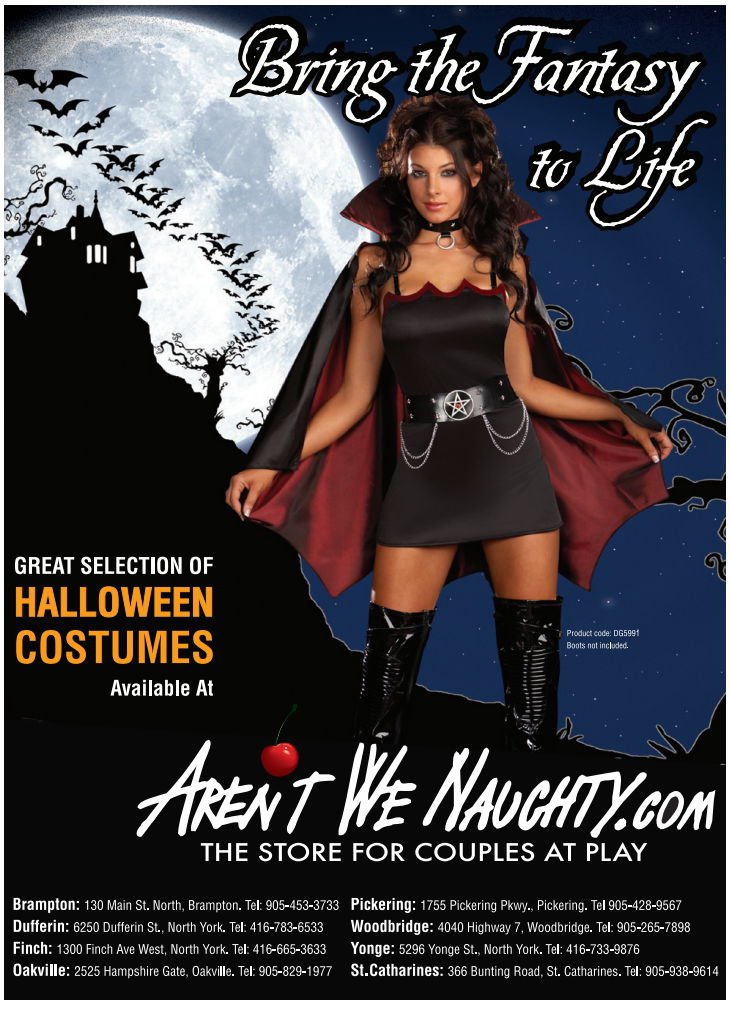
Symbolism in war

- The fight for the town of Kotkai is symbolically important because Pakistani Taliban chief Hakimullah Mehsud and a top deputy, Qari Hussain, hail from there.

Italy **Excellence awarded**

SANDRO PACE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Queen Rania of Jordan and Italian Lower Chamber President Gianfranco Fini pose for photographers yesterday during a ceremony for the Bellisario award, given to Queen Rania this year.



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Two held in slaying of British honorary consul

Jamaican police have detained two suspects in the slaying of British honorary consul John A. Terry, 65, a New Zealand native who had lived on the Caribbean island since 1967. He was found beaten and strangled at his home in early September. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lawyer denies reports that Lockerbie bomber has died

LOCKERBIE The British lawyer for Lockerbie bomber Abdel Baset al-Megrahi said yesterday his client was alive, contradicting a Sky News report that said the former Libyan intelligence agent, who is critically ill, had died.

"He is alive, he is breathing," attorney Tony Kelly said, but refused to say exactly when he had last spoken to al-Megrahi or how he knew he was alive.

Al-Megrahi, who has advanced stages of prostate cancer, is the only man convicted in the 1988 bombing of the Pan Am flight over Scotland that killed 270 people. In August he was freed from a Scottish prison on compassionate leave and returned to Libya.

Doctors gave him only three months to live when he was released. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Woman recants torture charge

An attorney for a black woman who claimed torture by a white group in West Virginia says his client fabricated the story to get back at a boyfriend who had beaten her up.

Megan Williams' attorney, Byron Potts, said at a news conference yesterday that Williams came forward because she no longer wants to live a lie. Potts encouraged West Virginia authorities to re-evaluate the case.

Williams told authorities in 2007 that she had been beaten, raped, forced to eat animal feces and taunted with racial slurs for days. She now lives in Columbus.

Megan Williams

Seven white men and women were convicted in the case, and most are serving long prison terms. Prosecutors in West Virginia have dismissed Williams' new claim, and lawyers for the defendants aren't discussing their plans.

Brian Abraham, the former Logan County prosecutor who pursued the cases, said police and prosecutors had realized early in the case that they couldn't rely on statements from Williams, who tended to embellish and exaggerate details. Instead, he said, the seven people were convicted based on their own statements and physical evidence. All seven pleaded guilty, and all but one were sentenced to long terms.

At the time, Abraham said that because Williams had had a relationship with one of the defendants it would be difficult to prove a hate crime occurred. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

ROME Archaeologists yesterday unveiled the remains of an ancient auditorium where scholars, politicians and poets held debates and lectures, a site discovered during excavations of a bustling piazza in the heart of Rome in preparation for a new subway line. The partially dug complex, dating back to the 2nd century AD, is believed to have been funded by Emperor Hadrian as a school to promote liberal arts and culture. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Check your inhibitions

In the movie Mean Girls, Lindsay Lohan's character Cady sagely observes, "Halloween is the one night a year when girls can dress like a total slut and no other girls can say anything about it."

Dressing provocatively on Halloween without fear of judgment is part of the beauty of the holiday. Temporarily transforming into someone else makes it easy for us to check our inhibitions at the door; something we do too infrequently on the other 364 days of the year. With its magical combination of alcohol, bare flesh and a boisterous sense of camaraderie, Halloween is basically Sex Christmas.

"Everyone wants to be sexy," says Yoann Hurlault, who works at Seduction Love Boutique in Toronto. "You don't have to be ugly for Halloween, right?"

Boosting their usual inventory of boas, hosiery, fetish gear and sex toys is a full wall of Halloween costumes. Hurlault shows off a few of his favourites, including the classic sexy nurse, a frilly French maid and a female Indiana Jones onesie with the approximate dimensions of a Hooters Girl uniform.

"Many of our costumes are inspired by successful movies, like Harry Potter or Pirates of the Caribbean," Hurlault says. "It allows people to become those heroes for a night."

An Amy Winehouse costume.

No wonder Halloween parties are hook-up central. There's something oddly freeing about dressing up as someone else for one night — especially if it's a character whose personality traits one can appropriate. This allows people to act more boldly than they normally would. If you're chatting up a hot German beer wench at a Halloween party and she walks away, no biggie. Fräulein didn't reject you. She rejected Superman!

If you're a wallflower who normally tucks themselves into a comfortable sphere of familiarity at social gatherings, Halloween is an exception. Costumes are instant conversation starters and strangers are much more likely to interact at bars, parties and even on the street when they have a visual common bond ("Hey, you like Twilight? I like Twilight! Let's make out!").

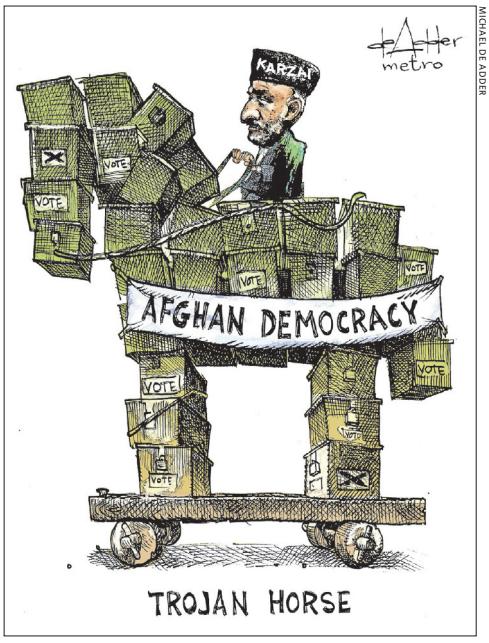
If you want to look seductive but are worried that you'll be one of a dozen black cats on the prowl at the party you're attending, you can always put your own spin on sexy. My friend Joan once dressed up as Sexy Kim Jong Il. Jezebel.com also has some recommendations, including Sexy Antarctica, Sexy Bottom of Purse Lifesaver and Sexy Bag of Burnt Microwave Popcorn.

Hotness.

On the web

- For more views on relating, go to Love Bytes at metronews.ca/blogs

Sofi Papamarko is a 20-something writer based in Toronto. Her heroes include Desmond Morris and Nancy Sinatra.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Building more opportunities for boys

Many of us have spent decades trying to address the barriers to women in education and in business. And in spite of the progress, there is more to be done.

At the same time, the gender gap cuts both ways. Boys are less likely than girls to meet provincial standards in reading. Boys account for the majority of suspensions. And boys are more likely than girls to drop out of high school in Canada (12.2 per cent versus 7.2 per cent in 2004-05).

On a national level, the social economic status of a school is the strongest predictor of reading performance, followed by the social economic status of the student followed by gender, according to a 2000 OECD study. This suggests that boys, regardless of their background, do better in well-resourced schools, reinforcing the importance of investment in education.

The costs to all Canadians of educational underperformance are immense. In 2004, the unemployment rate among people aged 25 to 44 who did not have a high school diploma was 12.2 per cent, almost twice the rate of high school graduates.

In a bold move announced this week, the Toronto District School Board's new director Chris Spence announced a strategy that includes a "Male Leadership Academy" for boys as well as male-friendly demonstration classrooms aimed at boosting boys' school performance.

Research by the Canadian Centre for Knowledge Mobilization in B.C. concluded that, overall, studies tend to show that single-sex schools serve girls better than boys. However, the majority of studies examine private schools dominated by students from wealthy well-educated families. We also know there are too few male role models in the early grades.

An excellent teacher can inspire any kid to love Shakespeare, but boys and girls do have different preferences. Same-sex classes in particular subjects allow gender specific content and teaching methods.

Spence is drawing on his previous successes in the development of Boys 2 Men, Project G.O. (Girls Only) and the Read to Succeed Program, which motivates and teaches boys to read. While we should heed cautions against segregating and fragmenting our schools, and we need rigorous evaluation and accountability, we do need to try new approaches to adapt the curriculum, teaching methods and learning environment to the particular needs of boys and girls.

Wendy Cukier is the associate dean of the Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University, and the founder of Ryerson's Diversity Institute.

Worth mentioning

Decision gives Kuwaiti women more freedom

Kuwait's highest court granted women the right to obtain a passport without their husband's approval, the case's lawyer said yesterday, in the latest stride for women's rights in this small oil-rich emirate.

Unlike with highly conservative neighbours such as Saudi Arabia, women in Kuwait can vote, serve in parliament and drive — and now can obtain their own passports.

In many countries in the region, women cannot travel or obtain a passport without the consent of their male guardian.

Attorney Adel Qurban, whose case the court was ruling on, said the landmark decision "freed" Kuwaiti women from the 1962 law requiring their husband's signature to obtain a passport.

His client, Fatima al-Baghli, is one of thousands of women who have been petitioning courts for this right.

The court found the article in the decades-old law "unconstitutional" because it goes against the principal of equal rights for men and women.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More can be done

- Activist Aisha al-Rsheid hailed Tuesday's ruling, but said females in this traditional male-dominated society were still a long way from the equality promised by the 1962 constitution.

We Know What You're Thinking

49% The number of Canadian women who admit to having been dishonest to their husbands about spending.

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Did you know?

In 1979, the branches of the Business Development Bank of Canada in British Columbia's Lower Fraser Valley pooled their resources to organize business management training sessions over a week called Small Business Week. **BDC.CA**

Small Business

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METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

A passion for healing

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

Selling relaxation can be a stressful business, says Nova Scotian entrepreneur Catherine Whittaker.

The reiki master and reflexologist started Summerhurt Healing Retreat four years ago as part of a move from working for a medical manufacturer toward offering holistic healing herself.

"I was really up for the challenge. I was just so passionate about what I did; the passion is what pushed me through. Had the logic kicked in, I don't know if I would have gone as far as I did," she says.

Summerhurst (summerhursthealing.com) offers full- and half-day "healing packages" at its tranquil rural setting 75 kilometres north of Halifax. Whittaker got it running with the help of a critical start-up financing loan from the Canadian Small Business Financing Program. It started life as Cozy Corner Sauna in Dartmouth, but after two years, Whittaker decided to go in a different direction. She consulted with her clients and created her healing getaway.

"I've had months that are like, 'Wow,' and months that are like, 'Oh my heavens, what am I doing?'" she says. "Most business owners will tell you — although they don't want you to print it — that they're doing it because they love it, not because of the money."

> **"Market research only goes so far: You've got to have a vision and go for it."**
> Catherine Whittaker

Self-employment has big benefits, too.

"You can think outside the box and not be shut down. The market can shut you down, but at least you can go ahead and try it," she laughs. "Market research only goes so far: You've got to have a vision and go for it."

Asked what advice she would have given herself four years ago, Whittaker thinks for a moment before deciding she wouldn't offer a word of warning.

Nova Scotia entrepreneur Catherine Whittaker.

"I learned so much about business and myself," she says. "Yeah, you do take a few extra turns along the road and it takes you much longer to get from point A to point B, but you have so much return when you get there.

"Had things worked out exactly as I was hoping in my business plan from day one, my business would be completely different and I think I would be bored to tears," Whittaker says.

"You have to keep moving and changing in order to grow."

Summerhurst Healing Retreat, which offers healing packages 75 kilometres north of Halifax, was started four years ago.

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Lexam acquires 42 per cent stake in VG Gold

Lexam Explorations said yesterday it had acquired a 42 per cent stake in mineral explorer VG Gold Corp. by exercising its right to turn 38 million warrants into shares of the company. The transaction brought VG a total of $5.6 million, leaving the gold miner debt free. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

BlackBerry makes Bold move in iPhone battle

PHONES Looking for an edge in its battle with Apple's iPhone, Research In Motion has updated the high-end BlackBerry Bold, replacing the trackball — an issue for some users — with a touchpad.

The Bold 9700 was released yesterday, just days after a new version of the touchscreen Storm, which also competes with Apple's touchscreen smartphone. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Windows by numbers

Microsoft's new operating system launches today, and you may be asking: How did we get to Windows 7? Did I miss 5 and 6?

No, you didn't.

Long ago, we had Windows 1, 2 and 3. Then Microsoft started naming its consumer software after the year of release, like a car, and we got Windows 95 and 98. Professional users got 4.0. Windows 2000 wasn't for consumers.

Windows 6.1?

- Windows 7 will tell applications that are trying to check which version of Windows they are running on will say it's 6.1 because it's really a small upgrade from Vista.

The new millennium raised an obstacle. Microsoft balked at naming its new system "01." So the new Windows became "XP," a contraction of "experience." The next Windows became "Vista."

Vista bombed, prompting Microsoft to make a clean break and give us Windows 7.

Microsoft reasons "7" is the seventh version of Windows, counting up from NT 4.0 — skipping 98 and counting both XP and 2000 as No. 5. Vista was No. 6. Windows 7 is descended from NT 4.0, not Windows 95. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business in brief

LOCOMOTIVES Canadian National Railway Co. has ordered 70 new high-horsepower locomotives from General Electric and Electro-Motive Diesel Inc. as part of its renewal program designed to increase fuel efficiency, improve reliability and reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. CN said the new locomotives are 15 to 20 per cent more fuel efficient than the ones they replace. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Women's 200-metre butterfly mark falls

Olympic champion Liu Zige wiped a stunning 1.6 seconds off the world record in the women's 200-metre butterfly at China's National Games yesterday. Liu was timed in two minutes 1.81 seconds, domestic news agency Xinhua reported, eclipsing the previous world mark of 2:03.41 set by Australian Jessicah Schipper. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Browns bitten by flu bug

Just when it couldn't get any worse for the woeful Cleveland Browns, it got worse. The team has been sacked by the flu. Yesterday, 12 players missed practice with flu-like symptoms as the team began installing the game plan for Sunday's matchup against the Green Bay Packers. Coach Eric Mangini scaled back the workout in hopes of keeping his healthy players from getting sick. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Sports in brief

HOCKEY The Anaheim Ducks recalled goaltender Justin Pogge from the Bakersfield Condors of the ECHL yesterday. The native of Fort McMurray, Alta., made his NHL debut with Toronto last season, going 1-4-1 record with a 4.36 GAA and .844 save percentage in seven appearances.

RACING Five-time rally world champion Sebastien Loeb won't compete in the last Formula One race of the season after motor racing's governing body refused to grant him the proper licence. Loeb had signed a deal with the Toro Rosso team to drive at Abu Dhabi on Nov. 1.

RUGBY The Canadian men's rugby team will play twice in Japan this fall and host Russia in Vancouver Nov. 28. The fall international schedule includes a pair of games Nov. 15 and 21 against Japan, ranked 14th in the world. Then the No. 13 Canadians welcome No. 16 Russia to UBC's Thunderbird Stadium the next week. The Canadians have not played since beating the U.S. in July to qualify for the World Cup.

NFL The Green Bay Packers signed veteran running back Ahman Green yesterday. Faced with a need at the position after third-down back DeShawn Wynn hurt his knee, the Packers turned to Green, who has been out of football since being cut by Houston in February.

BASEBALL Donald Fehr will receive an $11-million US severance package from the Major League Baseball Players Association when he leaves as executive director. Players voted to approve the package last month following the recommendation of the union's executive committee. Fehr has held his job since December 1983 and in June announced his intention to retire.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Wilson keeping players loose

Maple Leafs follow dodgeball practice with three-on-three tournament

The way they reacted — broad smiles, high-fives — you would have thought they had won something big. Like, maybe, a game.

But for six guys in blue shirts — Luke Schenn, Francois Beauchemin, John Mitchell, Lee Stempniak, Garnet Exelby and Rickard Wallin — they did win something: A mini 3-on-3 tournament at an arena three-quarters the size of an NHL rink in Richmond Hill.

"It started out kind of just fun, but at the end, guys were getting mad and angry, and getting intense," said Luke Schenn, smiling a champion's smile. "Guys wanted it pretty bad."

"It started out kind of just fun, but at the end, guys were getting ... intense."
Luke Schenn

It was clear bragging rights had been won, at least for the bus trip back to the MasterCard Centre in Etobicoke where showers and a change back into civilian clothes awaited.

Say what you will about Leaf coach Ron Wilson, but he's got a knack for making practices fun, even for a team mired in a losing streak.

A game of dodgeball last week and yesterday's surprise bus trip to Richmond Hill's National Training Rinks were his way to keep things interesting and distract players from their awful 0-6-1 start.

"It was something different. It's competitive, too," said Wilson. "Playing in small areas, you have to do things a bit quicker. We worked hard Monday and Tuesday on physical drills. Backed off today. Tomorrow get back at the physicality."

The Leafs are in the midst of a week off, and five days of practice can be a bit gruelling.

"You want to have some fun there," said Wilson. "I know it's hard for people to understand when we haven't won a game that we should be having fun. But it's important to let the guys relax a little bit, and at the same time get a great workout. It's exactly what the doctor ordered."

Hopefully, yesterday's mini-shinny experiment will cure what ails them.

"It will be nice for us to go on the road for a bit, string something together, get a bunch of games in a few days and build momentum early on in the trip," said Schenn.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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MLB playoffs **Ethier goes yard**

NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Los Angeles' Andre Ethier hits a solo home run in the top of the first inning last night as the Dodgers battled the Philadelphia Phillies in Game 5 of the National League championship series.
For a complete game recap, visit metronews.ca/sports

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Gonchar out 4-6 weeks

Penguins defenceman Sergei Gonchar will be out four to six weeks with a broken left wrist, his third significant injury in slightly more than a year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wright expects to start

DeRozan facing tough competition for fifth starting spot

There seems to be only one way Antoine Wright does things: To be a winner.

With Raptors coach Jay Triano suggesting Wright has every chance to unseat rookie DeMar DeRozan as the final piece of the team's starting lineup, Wright isn't about to shy away from the challenge.

"I don't expect to lose," the 6-foot-7 swingman said yesterday. "Who goes into any situation expecting to lose?"

Wright might not have much time left to make his way into the starting lineup. After missing the first seven pre-season games and a couple of weeks of practices while nursing a sore knee, the four-year veteran is at a decided disadvantage going into tomorrow's exhibition finale at Sioux Falls, S.D., against the Minnesota Timberwolves.

But Triano said he will give Wright as much time as he can in the game to assess his conditioning.

"Who goes into any situation expecting to lose?"
Antoine Wright

"I think we're going to play around with different lineups a little bit, but we have to get Antoine as much run as we can here," the coach said. "We've only got one game left in pre-season and we want to see what he can do and have the other guys who are on the floor mesh with him."

Even if he remains as a backup, it's not as if Wright won't have a major impact on whomever starts. He'll have days of practice to make sure DeRozan and Sonny Weems, another young guy looking for minutes, know they're in a legitimate competition because lessons learned on the practice court should carry over.

The three are fighting for the starting job alongside Jose Calderon, Hedo Turkoglu, Chris Bosh and Andrea Bargnani.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sports in brief

HOCKEY The International Ice Hockey Federation agreed with seven European countries to relaunch the Champions Hockey League next year. The IIHF said it has started looking for investors for leagues in the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland.

HOCKEY The Boston Bruins placed Marc Savard on long-term injured reserve with a broken left foot yesterday and expect the star centre to miss four to six weeks.

SOCCER FIFA president Sepp Blatter said yesterday he wants all legal issues to be settled before implementation of a rule that would limit the number of foreign players allowed on a team from 2012. Blatter indicated the rule would be implemented gradually.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Milan surprises Madrid; United, Chelsea win

SOCCER Big-spending Real Madrid slumped to a 3-2 home loss to AC Milan in the Champions League yesterday, while Manchester United and Chelsea registered their third straight wins to move closer to the knockout phase.

Pato's 88th-minute strike clinched the victory that saw Milan topple Madrid from the Group C summit on goal difference following the meeting of the European Cup's two most successful clubs.

Man United also left it late it against CSKA Moscow, with Antonio Valencia scoring in the 86th minute to maintain the English champions' perfect record in Group B at the scene of their triumph in the 2008 final.

ANDRES KUDACKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AC Milan's Alessandro Nesta fights for the ball with Real Madrid's Esteban Granero yesterday during Milan's 3-2 win in Champions League action.

Chelsea, which lost that Luzhniki Stadium final, coasted to a 4-0 victory over Atletico Madrid after narrow wins in its first two Group D matches.

At the Santiago Bernabeu stadium, Real Madrid — without injured world player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo — made the perfect start when Raul Gonzalez seized on an error by Milan goalkeeper Dida to score after 19 minutes.

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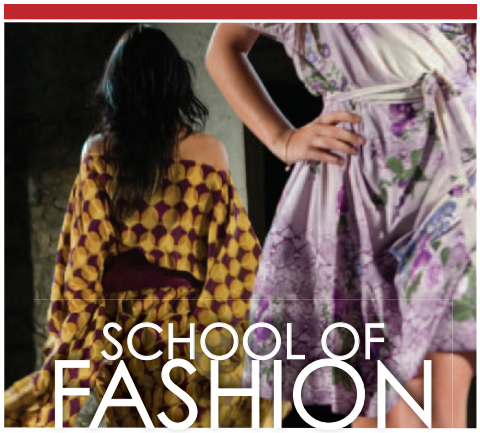

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Metro Homes

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Home Hardware Stores Limited is calling all virtual decorators to visit the redesigned and interactive Beauti-Tone website, where they can visualize what different paint colours might look like in their home. Check out Home Designer on beauti-tone.ca.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

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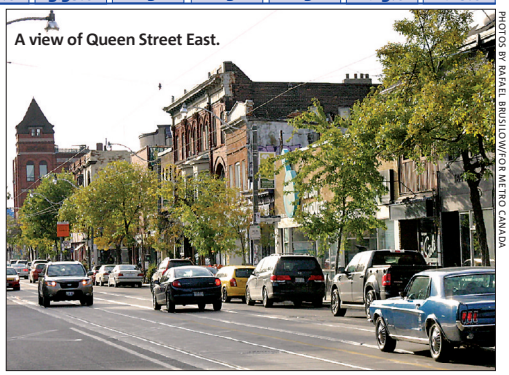
A Leslieville mural.


A view of Queen Street East.

PHOTOS BY RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Working class past, hip future

Leslieville attracting buyers to fixer-upper properties and new condo developments

Leslieville
Spaces & Places

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Residential houses in Leslieville.

Quiet and peaceful yet still full of zing, Leslieville is one of Toronto's best-unkept secrets.

The neighbourhood, located in South Riverdale and running past Broadview to Coxwell Avenue and between Gerrard Street East and Lake Ontario, is a true Toronto success story and one of the city's hippest neighbourhoods.

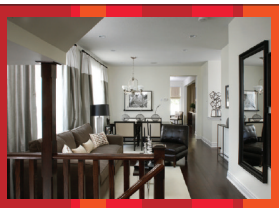
Once a staunchly working-class stronghold where primarily factory workers resided, recent decades have seen the area completely transformed by an increasing influx of the middle class, enticed by Leslieville's charming cafes, gourmet brunch restaurants and friendly streets bustling with joggers and cyclists.

Former factories have been turned into movie studio lots like Cinevillage and Showline Studios, and the resulting decrease in air pollution has made the neighbourhood more appealing to residents and potential homeowners.

Property values have been rising steadily in the area as more new buyers snatch up fixer-upper properties and plenty of new condo developments are going up as well.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE>>

Fall Into... Design.



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Monarch

A colourful past

Leslieville began as a small village in the 1850s, which grew up around the Toronto Nurseries owned by George Leslie and sons, after whom the community is named. Most of Leslieville's residents were employed at one of the brick-making factories in the area. METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Lowdown:

- **AVERAGE REAL ESTATE VALUES:** $340,031 (Source: City of Toronto, Statistics Canada)
- **AVERAGE GROSS RENT:** $731 (Source: City of Toronto, Statistics Canada)
- **GYMS:** HotFlex Fitness (276 Carlaw Ave.), Jimmie Simpson Recreation Centre (870 Queen St. E.), The Cardio Loft (401 Logan Ave.), CrossFit Toronto (388 Carlaw Ave.), Ladies Workout Express (1238 Queen St. E.)
- **NOTABLE SCHOOLS:** Eastdale CI (701 Gerrard St. E.), Riverdale CI (1094 Gerrard St. E.), Queen Alexandra Sr PS (181 Broadview Ave.), Leslieville Jr PS (254 Leslie St.), Duke of Connaught Jr & Sr PS (70 Woodfield Rd.)
- **MAJOR SHOPPING AND GROCERY STORES:** Gerrard Square Shopping Centre (Pape Ave. and Gerrard St. E.), Loblaws (17 Leslie St.), Price Chopper (731 Eastern Ave.), Food Basics (1000 Gerrard St. E.), No Frills (289 Coxwell Ave.), No Frills (449 Carlaw Ave.)
- **CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPMENTS:** Work Lofts (319 Carlaw Ave.), The Ninety (Queen St. E. And Broadview Ave.), The Printing Factory Lofts (NE corner of Carlaw Ave. and Queen St. E.), Wrigley Lofts (245 Carlaw Ave.)

RAFAEL BRUSILOW

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

An odd home on Coxwell.

GREENWOOD PARK

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Parks, shopping and fireworks

<<CONT. FROM LAST PAGE

A very trendy section of Queen Street East cuts through the heart of the area offering plenty of great eats and vintage furniture, fashion and design stores. To the northeast, the famous Gerrard Indian Bazaar running along Gerrard Street East From Greenwood Avenue to Coxwell is a smorgasbord of South Asian food, fashion and shopping.

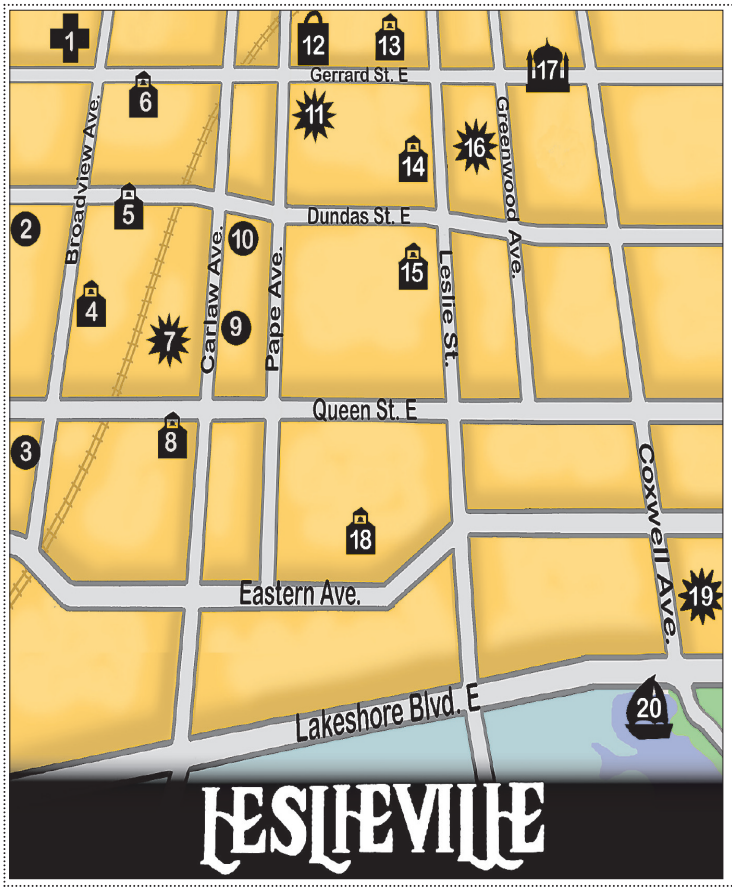
Fireworks lovers congregate every Canada Day at Ashbridges Bay Park and racing fans can get their fill of betting at the nearby Greenwood Racetrack.

Greenwood Park, at the southwest corner of Gerrard and Greenwood, is the area's biggest public green space with sports fields and lines of benches along Greenwood Avenue but Leslieville contains plenty more parks throughout its expanse as well.

For value and charm, Leslieville is definitely hard to beat.

Getting around

- TTC bus routes, TTC streetcar routes on Queen St. E. and Gerrard St. E. , access to Don Valley Parkway to the west.



Notable

- **1.** Riverdale Hospital
- **2.** Rivertowne (condo)
- **3.** The Ninety (condo)
- **4.** Queen Alexandra Sr Public School
- **5.** Dundas Jr Public School
- **6.** Eastdale CI (high school)
- **7.** Jimmie Simpson Park, which includes the Jimmy Simpson Recreation Centre (McGee St. and Queen St. E.)
- **8.** Morse Street Public School
- **9.** The Printing Factory Lofts & Urban Towers (condo)
- **10.** Flatiron Lofts & Work Lofts (condo)
- **11.** Pape Avenue Recreation Centre (Pape & Gerrard)
- **12.** Gerrard Square Shopping Centre (Pape & Gerrard)
- **13.** Riverdale CI (high school)
- **14.** Leslieville Jr Public School
- **15.** St Joseph Catholic School
- **16.** Greenwood Park (southwest of Greenwood & Gerrard)
- **17.** Gerrard Indian Bazaar (on Gerrard St. between Greenwood & Coxwell)
- **18.** Bruce Jr Public School
- **19.** Greenwood Racetrack
- **20.** Ashbridges Bay Park (Coxwell & Lakeshore)

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A MURAL

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Need to satisfy a sweet tooth in Leslieville?
Drop by LPK's organic bakery; Ed's Real Scoop gelato; Babycake cupcakes sold at Lil Bacci; Sweet Bliss bakery; Brick Street Bread; Cream, the Urban Dairy. HANNAH ZITNER/FOR METRO CANADA

PHOTOS BY HANNAH ZITNER/FOR METRO CANADA

From coffee, to brunch, to cupcakes to gelato, gourmets can spend hours filling their bellies and satisfying their palate on a walk through Leslieville. The neighborhood boasts some of the best espressos in the city, with neighborhood fixture Mercury Organic Espresso Bar as well as newcomer, Te Aro. On weekends, visitors and residents — often with strollers — brush elbows as they sample one of the many brunch options, from a greasy breakfast poutine at Lady Marmalade's to a healthy fruit smoothie at the currently-under-construction Pulp Kitchen juice bar. Above, Lil Bacci.

Not-so-new trend

Since The New York Times called the east end neighborhood "Toronto's hippest place to dine" in 2005, Leslieville has just gotten hipper.

With art galleries, organic bakeries and juice bars popping up along the Queen Street East strip, the neighbourhood that was once home to industrial plants and factory workers has now welcomed the city's creative class and young professionals. After enduring nearly a decade of the up-and-coming-neighbourhood label, Leslieville can finally drop the outdated moniker.

BE SURE TO CATCH PLACES AND SPACES EVERY WEEK IN METRO HOMES SECTION.

Known for its vintage furniture shops, Leslieville is the go-to place for set designers and home decorators with healthy budgets. Vintage junkies looking for smaller scale items can also rummage through several second hand clothing stores, such as Gadabout and Thrill of the Find, for clothes, jewelry and curiosities. For a unique twist on vintage, Nathalie Roze & Co offers "creatively recycled," local, one-of-a-kind items. Above, Phil'z 20th Century Design furniture.

Although weekend days see the area hot spots filled to capacity, once the sun goes down, so does most of the Leslieville action. For those wanting to catch up over a pint, the recently opened Ceili Cottage, with its Irish themed menu and decor, is a great excuse to stay out a bit later. Another local haunt, Stratengers, has been offering locals pints and standard pub food for more than 20 years. Above, Ed's Real Scoop.

What do you like about Leslieville?

BY RAFAEL BRUSILOW

Tom Kuhn
Age 51, visits the area

A: There are a lot of small, independent places here that are really great. Bonjour Brioche is really popular.

Dusty Moreira-Lima
Age 19, lives and works in the area

A: I love it here — it's a calmer alternative to Queen Street West. My favourite coffee bars are Mercury Espresso and Te Aro.

Liz Nelson
Age 28, lives just north of the area

A: My favourite place ever to get treats is Sweet Bliss — it has phenomenal cupcakes.

Be prepared to pounce

TheHunt
Amit Paul

Metronews.ca/thehunt

Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max. amitp@rogers.com

My last column discussed the buying journey. Unfortunately, the confines of this space sometimes limits the steps within. I'd like to finish that journey now, if I may, because the real value of the proper steps lies in the potential pot of gold awaiting you.

Take it from me, the good deals vanish almost instantly, and few come up — but they do come up. You must move fast. If you're focused, aware of your needs, finances, and have notes on the properties you've seen, moving quickly can be moving intelligently, rather than blindly.

The purpose of establishing your needs, having a breakdown of various mortgage situations, taking notes, and seeing numerous properties, is to enable you to act fast when a bargain presents itself. It's easy to see how moving quickly can be nerve-wracking. After all, buying a condo or home is often the single largest investment a person or family makes. You must understand that with the real estate market in the GTA being what it is, a person would have to be desperate or crazy — or ill-informed — to sell for less than market value! That's why it's important to put yourself in a position to react fast to a hot property, from a position of informed factual intelligence, and taking the right steps towards becoming a clever and astute buyer will do that for you.

"The good deals vanish almost instantly — but they do come up. You must move fast. If you're focused, aware of your needs, finances, and have notes on the properties you've seen, moving quickly can be moving intelligently, rather than blindly."

Often the most complex issue for buyers is how much they can afford. Many times I've shown buyers a breakdown of various mortgage situations, to their pleasant surprise. Fact is, many buyers can actually afford more than they think, given the proper strategy. Assume Buyer Tristy is ready to buy a condo priced at $225,000. Chances are she'd consider a condo-town at $270,000 way out of her price range. With the right mortgage product, her monthly mortgage payment would only be about $200 more, not the $50,000 increase, on the surface. Tristy should also consider her maintenance fees at the condo-town will be less and appreciation will probably be higher. Add all these figures together and the condo-town might actually be the financially sounder option. Of course this is just one scenario, but it pays to know all of your scenarios.

The secret lies in the confidence of being a prepared and knowledgeable buyer, so that you're in a position to jump on a deal when it comes — very few are. In this market everyone's looking for the best deal and only the ones that are properly prepared will get it.

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Still like home
Eva Beeckman, senior designer at the Art Shoppe for One Eleven Forsythe, says the design of the residence is meant to showcase how luxury condominium living can still feel like home. RAF BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Pieces of historical French panache

RAF BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Suite Talk

Relaxed elegance abounds at One Eleven Forsythe in Oakville.

Located at the edge of Sixteen Mile Creek and near to Lake Ontario in downtown Oakville, the breathtaking condominium residence features classic architecture melded with contemporary sensibilities to create an elegant look that doesn't feel constricting.

Styling accents take their cue from a sense of historical French panache, particularly Louis XV, though made contemporary through choice of modern fabrics and materials.

"It's more modern than traditional. Everything has that touch of traditional but it's been cleaned up and contemporized," said Eva Beeckman, senior designer at the Art Shoppe for One Eleven Forsythe.

A touch of English Regency styling can also be felt throughout, from the gorgeous marble main hallway to the ornate, gold-highlighted desk and empire chair in the den area. Sleek-lined sofas and wing chairs highlight the living room's sense of understated luxury.

"We wanted to show a less cluttered approach. We didn't go with large, super-upholstered sofas — everything is very sleek and elegant," Beeckman said.

The expansive master bedroom shows off the benefits of elegantly outfitted wide space and the tastefully finished kitchen, with rich granite throughout, takes the open-concept approach to create a space that is equal parts elegant and inviting.

"The kitchen is really open and airy. It's got that relaxed elegance that's not totally formal, it's dressed down," Beeckman said.

With landscaped paths snaking throughout the extensive grounds and leading to the creek and a fully equipped gym that includes yoga and stretching areas, One Eleven Forsythe's elegance extends to fitness and fun.

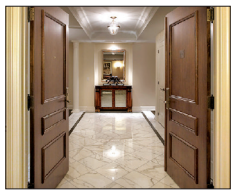
One Eleven Forsythe is aiming squarely at an upscale clientele, especially more mature Oakville residents who want to enjoy the simplicity of a condominium without compromising on luxury and sophistication. "It is a home on a different level but it is still a home. There is still a sense of community here," Beeckman said.

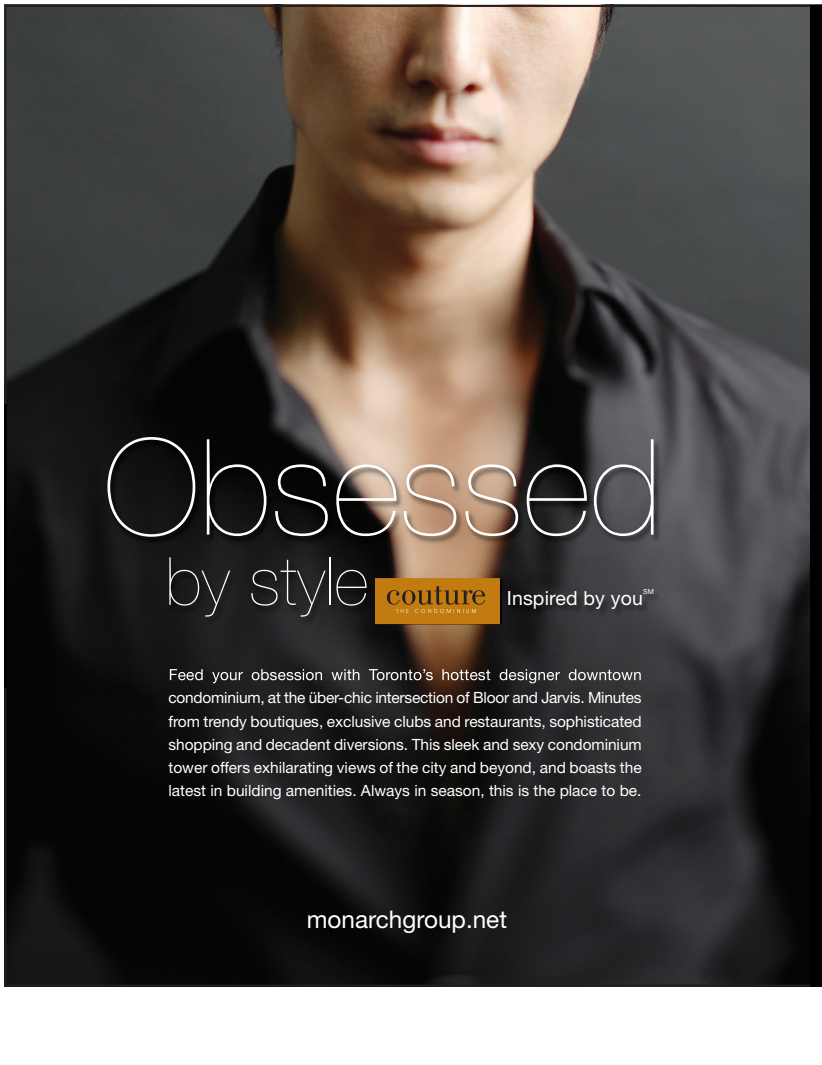
For more, visit oneelevenforsythe.com.

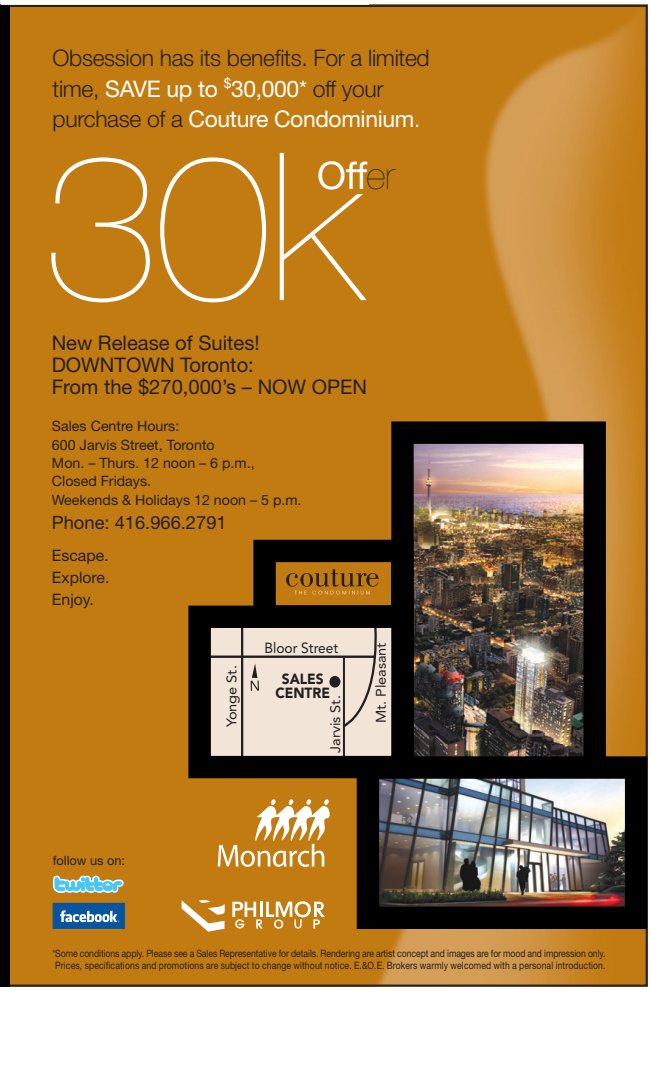
Details

- One Eleven Forsythe in Oakville
- Builder: The Daniels Corporation
- Website: oneelevenforsythe.com
- Availability: immediate
- Pricing: suites available from $1.7 million

A selection of images from One Eleven Forsythe in Oakville.







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Festive with a dash of freaky

EMMA YARDLEY
for Metro Canada

Ghost, goblins and ghoul decorations can turn your place from blah to boo, but keeping your Halloween decor simple can be just as effective.

"You can decorate in two ways," says Ann Marie Favot, design editor for Style at Home. "The scary Halloween way, with goblins and ghosts, or decorate just with a black and orange theme, nothing creepy."

If you're feeling crafty and you'd like to try the colour theme route, Favot suggests painting jack-o-lantern faces onto pumpkins with watered-down white glue and then sprinkling on black glitter.

"It's a little bit different. Last year, I got little pumpkins and blackened them with acrylic paint. Crafts have come to a whole different level. They're not longer only for people who are crafty but for people who want to do something fun."

By mixing in your own crafty creations with classic fall-themed décor you can stay away from cheesy while still creating that festive feeling.

(Spider with movable legs, above, President's Choice Home. $8.99, pc.ca.)

2

3

4

5

1

6

1. Let these curious dark metallic crows tea light holders create a mysterious mood. Tag/Candym Enterprises, $14, 1-800-263-3551.
2. Adopt your own pet pumpkin cat by popping one of your orange orbs onto this whimsical metal frame. Pier 1 Imports, $18, pier1.com.
3. Add a little light to this moody haunted birdhouse lantern. Tag/Candym Enterprises, $58, 1-800-263-3551.
4. Staub's La Cocotte pumpkin pot is perfect for preparing a seasonal stew while doubling as a stovetop decoration. Gourmet kitchen retailers across Canada, $310.
5. A twig wreath hanging on a front door is a classic autumn addition to your home's exterior. Canadian Tire, $19.99, 20 inches, canadiantire.ca.
6. Pretty as a pumpkin. That's how the saying goes, right? Pumpkin candles: Cinderella, $42; small, $35; six votives for $9. Pottery Barn, potterybarn.ca.

Hold on: Holdbacks aren't always allowed

LegalMatters

Jeffrey D. Cowan
jeff@cowanlaw.ca

Q We recently purchased a brand new home from a custom builder. Upon inspecting the house when we were ready to sign the Agreement of Purchase and Sale, there were a whole host of items that still needed to be addressed so we added them to our Agreement in a schedule. A couple of days before closing, we did our final inspection with the builder and very few of the outstanding issues had been addressed. We stated we were going to seek a holdback of funds and the builder flatly refused. We turned to our lawyer who stated that if we didn't provide the full purchase price on closing, the deal would not close; with the pursuant potential for a lawsuit by the vendor. We were absolutely stunned and ended up closing with a whole bunch of items outstanding. How could they get away with this?

A The problem herein lies that without pointing fingers, holdbacks are not necessarily given freely and even if the deficiencies were itemized in the Agreement of Purchase and Sale, your realtor should have added that a holdback would be provided if the problems had not been addressed.

If the new home was covered under the Ontario New Home Warranty Program, then you wouldn't have to worry about unfinished work because you would have protection under Tarion. However, as this builder was probably a small custom builder, it was probably not registered. It is then left up to you to pursue the builder after the closing to either fix the deficiencies or pursue him in court. This is not the result you were looking for when you itemized all the problems but one misguided comment gave you some false expectations.

Best of luck!

Jeffrey Cowan is the principal with Cowan Taylor and McGee, Barristers & Solicitors. The information in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

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1. Jasper Conran $465, William Ashley. 2. Footed $50, with ladle $9, Crate and Barrel. 3. Lion's Head $214, Williams-Sonoma. 4. Maxwell & Williams White Basics with ladle $45, Northdale Trading. 5. Sophie Conran $60, William Ashley. 6. Lyon $38 (with ladle, not shown), Danesco.

Beware: Do-it-yourself reno needs ample time, patience

HomeScape
Sylvia Putz
metronews.ca/homescape

A good friend of mine is doing a kitchen renovation in stages to save money, and she's pulling out her hair over it.

She wants it done, but is doing it in bits and pieces, as her cash flow allows. This way, she won't be paying to borrow money from the bank to finance her renovation. She's a sucker for doing things as cheaply as possible, and so is her husband. He would do the work, since he is a very handy fellow, and there's no need to spend money on a contractor, or get a renovation bank loan. Sounds good, right?

Wrong. Life can get in the way, as it often does. Either you pay the bucks to get the whole job done in a reasonable timeframe, or you save money, wait and live inside a renovation for an extended time. And that applies whether you do it yourself, or whether you hire someone to renovate in stages, according to your cash flow.

You have to ask yourself whether saving money is worth the frustration of living through an extended stage-by-stage renovation. Some say yes, and some say no, and some say yes until they actually live through a long period of disorder and inconvenience, at which time they decide they're in the "no" camp.

If you decide that a stage-by-stage renovation is for you after all, here's one major pitfall you must avoid. You definitely do not want to undertake expensive and frustrating rework. Rework means you'll be paying your contractor to tear down work that has already been finished, to order to remedy a problem that you did not foresee.

Think carefully and plan out in detail what you want to do in totality before you embark on any bits and pieces of renovation work. Only after you think about the whole project should you decide on stages and timing of renovation work.

And when it comes to figuring out costs, be brutally honest with yourself. Avoid tacking on "extras" at the end of a project, because you will pay "extras" dollars for it.

Last but not least, especially if you do the work yourself, be honest about your time, the likelihood of finishing the work in an acceptable timeframe, as well as whether patience is abundant in your household. It will be needed if you decide to renovate in stages.

Ask yourself: Is saving money worth the frustration?

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

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Shop movie wardrobes

Purchase unique fashion items used in Toronto-based film and television shoots at the Canadian Alliance of Film & Television Costume Arts & Design Movie Wardrobe Sale, happening Saturday at Pinewood Toronto Studios. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Style

Twitter accessories

Twitter fanatics can now wear their Hashtag (or TwitterName) proudly with custom-designed accessories. Online shop Survival of the Hippest (survivalofthehippest.com) offers handcrafted sterling silver and gold necklaces, bracelets, anklets, keychains, and brooches that feature your personal Twitter IDs. Prices range from $49.95 US to $139.95 US. METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Rebels and romantics

Urban gear, ethereal evening wear and boldly coloured cocktail creations rocked the beginning of Toronto's LG Fashion Week

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bustle
True to form, Bustle embraced its latest inspiration in literal form with a signature print, using a woodland-inspired graphic complete with cardinals perched on trees emblazoned on knitwear and trunks. Rick Mercer brought some added star power to the show as a model donning an all-white shirt and pant combo topped off with a blue-and-white blazer with white lapel trim.

BUSTLE

TRAVIS TADDEO

Travis Taddeo
Calgary native Taddeo showcased a range of provocative looks featuring blousy tops, barely there briefs and sky-high hemlines using soft jerseys and leather as models toted black baseball bats on the catwalk. Loose-fitting tops and snug-fitting, body-contouring minidresses featured draped detailing, varying from T-straps to racerbacks.

DAVID DIXON

David Dixon
Dixon's signature collection played with shapes and pattern, featuring bubble silhouettes on lush trenches and dresses to dramatic cowl neck halter creations and more subtle accents from ruching on bodices to floral folds along hemlines and hand appliqued flowers of sheer fabrics. He shifted gears for his Barbie collection which made ample use of subtle pattern accents, such as peek-a-book polka prints under skirt linings, monochrome on suits, and cotton houndstooth.

Jason Meyers
Meyers brought his interpretation of the classics to his contemporary ready-to-wear collection, evoking innocence with fanciful ruffles and bow blouses, and delicate detailing with beaded straps and gathered hemlines adding a hint of whimsy. He didn't shy away from amping the volume with exaggerated ruffled folds on vests and mini dresses, and oversized pocketing on elegant evening creations.

JASON MEYERS

PHOTOS BY KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE COAT

Go for graphic vintage

ADVICE When buying a coat this season, go for a textured fabric, such as brushed wool, bouclé, felt or nubby tweed.

HOW TO WEAR IT Choose a classic turtleneck and thick leggings. Complete the look with a pair of platform booties or over-the-knee boots.

CURVY

Wool and nylon, Jacob ($199, jacob.ca). Stylist, Véronique Delisle

BOYISH

Wool and nylon, Reitmans ($99, reitmans.ca)

STUDIO ANDRÉ DOYON

PETITE

Wool and polyester, Manteau Manteau ($200, manteaux.com)

TALL

Wool, Miss Sixty ($549, info@sixtycanada.com)

SLIM

Polyester and wool, Tristan ($295, tristan style. com)

To read these stories and more, visit: **ellecanada.com**

Style **off the runway** by Enza Anderson

Read Metro this week for Enza Anderson's best picks of "off the runway" fashionistas during Toronto Fashion Week. Among the crowd were Samantha Taylor, left, and Govana MacDonald, right. Taylor, Mattel Canada's licensing manager, is wearing David Dixon and describes her style as: "Contemporary mixed with classic pieces." MacDonald, who works in real estate, is wearing French Connection. Her fashion advice is: "Lots of colour. Keep it fun and don't be afraid to show off your body."

LG Fashion Week

Runway shows and events happening today:

- 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. FGI Speed Networking in the V.I.P. Lounge (BIO)
- 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Romanian Designers & Manufacturers Delegation (Showroom)
- 2 p.m. Vibgyor
- 3 p.m. Rain Anthology
- 3:30 p.m. VIA Rail Announcement in V.I.P. Lounge (BIO)
- 4 p.m. Aime
- 4:30 p.m. Micalla
- 5 p.m. Cheri Milaney
- 5:30 p.m. Mobile Style: LG Product Launch
- 6 p.m. Evan Biddell
- 7 p.m. RUDSAK
- 8 p.m. NADA
- 9 p.m. Romona Keveza Collection
- 9:30 p.m. The September Issue.

TORONTO Fashion Week

Afiya Francisco

Our style expert judges the runways at metronews.ca/blogs

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Designers honour Kelly

Actress Grace Kelly will be honoured today with the Rodeo Drive Walk of Style Award in Beverly Hills, along with French jeweller Cartier. They join past honorees including Manolo Blahnik, Tom Ford, Donatella Versace and Giorgio Armani. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hip to be square

Buffalo checks, plaid, tartan: Embrace your inner lumberjack

The first rule of this seasons "plaid" trend is to keep in mind not all squares are the same.

"Checks are patterns of squares and plaid is a pattern of striped bands, mostly at right angles," explains fashion stylist Peter Papapetrou, who has worked with Hilary Duff, Dragonette, Jully Black and Javier Bardem. And when it comes to the difference between plaid and tartan, there really isn't one, at least not in North America — plaid is our preferred term. In Scotland, however, tartan denotes the pattern and plaid means a tartan blanket or over-the-shoulder cloth.

"A lot of big designers like Dolce and Gabana ... and Burburry use these patterns for day and night," comments Papapetrou.

At a retail level, it seems we can't have too much of a square thing. Plaid and checks are everywhere, from shirts, to vests, to coats, to scarves, to bags and shoes. And underwear.

JANINE FALCON/FOR METRO CANADA

Doc Marten boots, $150. Available at softmoc.com.

Men's Quagmire shirt, $69. Available at quagmiregolf.com.

Esprit coat, $169.50. Available at Esprit stores.

Men's American Eagle holiday boxers, $12.50. Available at ae.com

Smythe red jacket, $595. Available at smytheles vestes.com.

Roots Little Olivia Canadian Collection purse, $98. Available at Roots stores.

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Jonesing for a Bridget sequel
Renee Zellweger is baffled by reports she's preparing to reprise her role as Bridget Jones. She tells Usmagazine.com, "I get asked (about) that every single day and I don't know anything." FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Together again
Justin Timberlake flew to Vancouver to see Jessica Biel to prove he still loves her. They were spotted in the city at a screening of Where the Wild Things Are on Tuesday night.
FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

The perfection of pop

New album finds The Raveonettes In and Out of Control

CAM LINDSAY
for Metro Canada

"We always set out to write the perfect pop song," confesses Sune Rose Wagner, the male half of Denmark's The Raveonettes.

Ever since they first appeared seven years ago using vicious degrees of feedback, Wagner and Sharin Foo have remained a vital and dependable source for perfect pop songs.

Beginning with 2002's mini album Whip It On, through four full-length albums and last year's series of EPs, on each release the duo have always managed to achieve their goal of reaching pop perfection.

In and Out of Control's lead single Last Dance is their finest bid yet. A sickly sweet prom night anthem with soaring harmonies and a candy coating instead of their usual noise-drenched sheen, it sounds like it was lifted right out of Sixteen Candles.

"Sometimes you succeed and that's the case with Last Dance. I think That Great Love Sound (from 2003's Chain Gang of Love) is a perfect pop song but the production is too harsh to win people over. The production on Last Dance is interesting because it melts '60s with '80s and sweetness with dark lyrics. It's a very different kind of pop song."

Actually, the band's fourth album is filled with "very different kinds of pop songs," which Wagner feels reflect the definition of the band.

"The Raveonettes stands for a lot of things," he explains. "Each song was treated individually and as we were progressing I felt the need to keep writing and adding songs to make it even more varied."

Brought to life using layers and layers of distortion, sweet, but deadly boy-girl vocals, driving drum machine rhythms and the odd synthesizer, from the titles alone, the album paints vivid portraits of rebellion, depravity and classic Hollywood romanticism.

In concert

- The Raveonettes play the Phoenix Concert Theatre in Toronto tonight, $18.50.

"The songs are about my life around me and my thoughts on various subjects such as violence, suicide, love and rape," Wagner explains.

Yes, he said rape. And one look at In and Out of Control's track listing and songs like D.R.U.G.S. and Suicide pale next to one called Boys Who Rape (Should All Be Destroyed). What's funny is how such a brazen title became one of the catchiest, albeit most uncomfortable jingles of the year.

"I've always loathed rapists and think they're the lowest of the low," admits Wagner. "I thought we needed an up-tempo song so I wrote that song really fast and we made it sound frantic and crazy with the unusual beat. Sharin's voice was perfect for the song because of the sweetness in her voice singing some very confrontational words."

Adds Wagner, "I had an idea but people really picked up on it in a big way I must say. I like that, it's a fine song with a clear message."

In and Out of Control is the latest album from The Raveonettes.

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Monday's Eyebrow Message

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If you were at Yonge and Eglinton on Monday, you probably noticed some people digging invisible holes, carrying invisible beams, and swinging invisible hammers. If you missed it, you can see all the hard work at **dairymilk.ca**

Look for the next Eyebrow message in Monday's paper.

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A Bachelor no more

Jason Mesnick, who infamously reversed his decision after the finale of The Bachelor to choose Molly Malaney instead of original choice Melissa Rycroft, has popped the question once again, asking Malaney to marry him in New Zealand. **PEOPLE.COM**

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Joss Stone touches the soul

Joss Stone

Album: Colour Me Free
Label: EMI
Rating: ●●●●½

JOSS STONE EMERGED six years ago as almost a novelty act — a bare-footed 17-year-old English school girl with a mane of golden hair singing '60s R&B in an Aretha-like voice. Since then we've seen a wave of English retro waifs come and go. On Colour Me Free, Joss Stone finally steps out to put them in their place. Comparing Stone to Adelle or Duffy is like comparing Gladys Knight to Lulu. It's hard to believe this album was recorded live off the floor at the club Joss's mum owns. It's got a sonic depth that you can reach in and caress, which is something you can usually only find on old Stax or Muscle Shoals LPs. Yet Stone manages to merge her '60s leanings with more contemporary sounds on songs like Could Have Been You and, with the help of rapper Nas, on Governmentalist. Still, this is a CD for her parents' generation. The oldsters will love her singing around Jeff Beck's Superstition-style riffing on Parallel Lines and her rough-housing with Raphael Saadiq on Big Ole Game.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Music Reviews

music@metronews.ca

Flight of the Conchords

Album: I Told You I Was Freaky
Label: Sub Pop/Warner
Rating: ●●●

IF ANYONE DESERVED a Grammy last year it was Flight of the Conchords. The comedy duo's hilarious debut disc was easily one of the best records of the year. The follow-up will still elicit plenty of chuckles, but it falls short of its predecessor. Once again the record is filled with songs from the band's HBO television show, but overall the tracks don't have the same impact as what they did on season one. Still, the back-and-forth dialogue on We're In Love With a Sexy Lady, about a girl with a lazy eye, is fantastic.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Colour Me Free is the latest album from British singer Joss Stone.

Ben Gibbard and Jay Farrar

Album: One Fast Move or I'm Gone: Music from Kerouac's Big Sur **Label:** Atlantic/Warner
Rating: ●●●●

WHILE DEATH CAB For Cutie is Ben Gibbard's main project, that doesn't mean the soft-voiced singer can't have a side gig that may be even better than his day job. He did that with the Postal Service, and now he teams with Jay Farrar of Son Volt and Uncle Tupelo fame on this beautiful lilting campfire album. The disc is the soundtrack to the movie One Fast Move or I'm Gone: Kerouac's Big Sur. The music is quiet, elegant and haunting while Kerouac's words — the lyrics are taken from Big Sur — have been given new life.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Five For Fighting

Album: Slice
Label: Sony
Rating: ●●

THE PIANO MEN of past generations have gotten fatter and older. So it's important to have a few waiting in the wings to replace Elton and Billy Joel. John Ondrasik, the 44-year-old L.A. songwriter who works under the alias Five for Fighting, is doing his best to carry the mantle. You probably know him for hit Superman (it became one of the 9-11 anthems). Slice is his fifth studio album and delivers time-worn themes from the mythical heartland. There's American Pie nostalgia (the title track), "a-better-world-because-of-you" patriotism (Note to the Unknown Soldier) and a song written for couples who actually have a favourite song (This Dance). Still, it's hard to dislike these well-crafted melodies, even when they're selling schmaltzy bromides like "hope will save the day" on the hopeless track Hope.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

BackBeat

Mike Benhaim

Read his music blog at metronews.ca/backbeat

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Lepage's opera gets another go
The Canadian Opera Company says it has added another performance of Robert Lepage's The Nightingale and Other Short Fables due to unprecedented demand. The opera received critical raves after its world premiere last weekend. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A good month for B.C.'s Foster

It's not often that an aspiring first-time novelist gets the benefit of direct feedback and advice from Oprah Winfrey.

So when the talk-show queen and publishing-industry saviour recommended Amy Foster change the setting of her first book, When Autumn Leaves, from Massachusetts to her native British Columbia, Foster listened.

"You can't deny Oprah," Foster said in a recent telephone interview. "When Oprah tells you to do something, you do it."

Then again, Foster isn't your typical first-time novelist.

The daughter of Canadian superproducer David Foster, Amy is an accomplished songwriter in her own right, having penned tunes for Josh Groban, Diana Krall, Destiny's Child and Andrea Bocelli.

Her most famous collaborations have been with Michael Buble, including Haven't Met You Yet, the first single from his latest record, Crazy Love.

THE CANADIAN PRESS
Amy Foster

That album was released Oct. 9 and has been No. 1 on the album charts in the two weeks since in both Canada and the United States. When Autumn Leaves was released Oct. 6.

So yes, Foster has had a pretty good month.

"It's like a whirlwind," she said.

"It's the best time. It's amazing. I couldn't have planned it any better."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mix of Six

Fundraiser

Where: Toronto Lawn Tennis Club, 44 Price St.

Author Michael Ondaatje will be reading and interviewed by Eleanor Wachtel of the CBC's Writers & Co as part of a Stephen Lewis Foundation fundraiser. $100. 416-543-1086.

Fashion

When: Through Saturday

LG Fashion Week continues with events taking place until Saturday. lgfashionweek.ca.

Art

Where: The Gladstone, 1214 Queen St. W.

The Gladstone plays host to the Upart Contemporary Art Fair, featuring room installations, panel discussions, performances and more. $8. gladstonehotel.com.

Film

Where: Sheppard Grande, 4861 Yonge St.

Tonight is the final evening of the Toronto Israel Film Festival, featuring screenings of recent films from Israel. is raelfilmfestival.ca.

Food

When: Today

Toronto's Chocolate Festival continues today, with delicious samples and creations being offered up around the city. chocolatefestivalweek.com.

Music

When: 8:30 p.m.
Where: The Horseshoe, 370 Queen St. W

Alberta's Corb Lund performs at the Horseshoe. $20. horseshoetavern.com.

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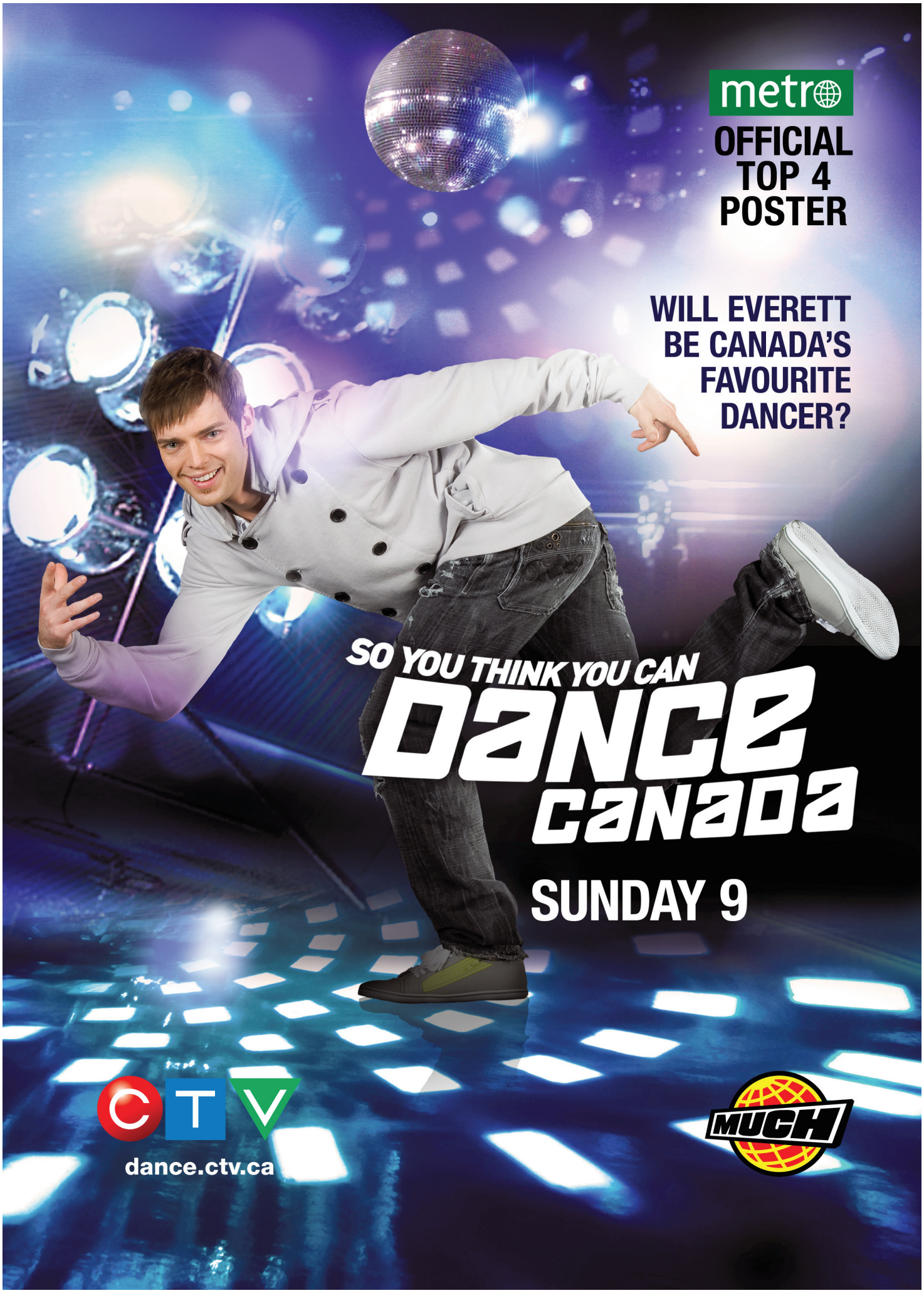
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Toronto Cypher angie ytc

The cast of NBC's sitcom Community.

Community mines college life for laughs

Oddball group of students at heart of comedy series

Chevy Chase, who co-stars in NBC's freshman sitcom Community, is as droll and deadpan in an interview as he was three decades ago delivering the news on Saturday Night Live or in a string of film roles including Caddyshack and Fletch.

Does the new show — about an oddball collection of community college students — summon memories of his Bard College days in New York?

"College? No," Chase says, mischief clearly afoot. "If anything, it brings up my prison stint."

On-camera quips are the work of series creator Dan Harmon and his writing staff, but Harmon knew the actors delivering them would be key. Joel McHale, Alison Brie, Gillian Jacobs, Ken Jeong and Danny Pudi co-star as members of a study group at the fictional Greendale school.

"Casting was 95 per cent of putting the show together," said Harmon. "This is an ensemble comedy. These are the choices that either make the show or sink it."

So far, critics have given Community high marks while viewers still are discovering it.

Community drew five million viewers last week compared with eight million for NBC's The Office (and more than 14 million for CBS' Two and a Half Men), but is seeing growth in its advertiser-favoured age 18-to-49 audience.

Community was inspired by the "emotional punch" of Harmon's experience at Glendale Community College, north of Los Angeles. Enrolling four years ago at age 32 to study Spanish with his girlfriend, he found himself drawn into the lives of fellow students as he helped them with classwork.

In the series, that's the fate of McHale's cocky Jeff, a would-be lawyer. The 66-year-old Chase, playing a man made wise by experience, was an unexpected bonus, Harmon said.

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Freddie Highmore takes off

With Astro Boy role, young actor leads a boldface voiceover cast

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

There are less awkward birthdays a person could have than Valentine's Day, but young British actor Freddie Highmore tries to not let it get to him.

"It's all right, actually," he says with a shy smile. "Maybe I'll be wanting a card from that special person, and you just keep getting them from your family, like, 'No, no, where's her card?' But it's been all right so far."

"All right so far" is an understatement when discussing the 17-year-old's film career. After an early start in films like Finding Neverland, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and August Rush, Highmore's latest has him voicing the title character in Astro Boy, based on the popular, decades-old Japanese comic.

Stepping into such well-known rocket boots was more than a little daunting, Highmore admits: "You want to get it right."

While admittedly not a comics fan, Highmore is no stranger to animation work, though he still finds the experience of working alone in a booth a bit odd.

"In the scenes when Astro Boy is flying around, I'd be — well, not flying, but jumping up and down and getting out of breath," Highmore remembers.

"The couple of technicians in there might think you're a little odd, but hopefully the millions of people who see the film will think it's all right in the end."

Freddie Highmore voices the title character in Astro Boy.

And though he's starring alongside an impressive list of co-stars, including Bill Nighy, Nicolas Cage and Kristen Bell, he can't exactly say he really worked with them.

"I met Kristen Bell when we came over for Comic Con, and she was very nice. But I hadn't met her until after we finished filming," he says. "But people have said we had great chemistry in the film."

Highmore is no stranger to famous co-stars, having gotten his start alongside the likes of Johnny Depp and Russell Crowe, and he's done his best to learn from them. "I'm not sure if there's a moment where Johnny Depp sat down and said, 'Try this in life' or whatever. But I think that you just pick up things," he says.

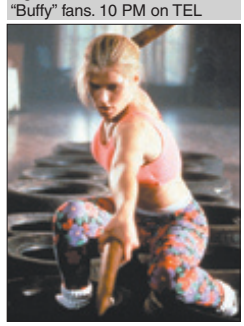
With his 18th birthday a few months away and his profile rising, Highmore is hoping to avoid the usual pitfalls of Young Hollywood. "You see these young kid actors grow up and go off the rails. I haven't been caught up in any of that," he says. "We get such a detached view of it because we're quite a ways away in England."

"I hadn't met (Kristen Bell) until after we finished filming. But people have said we had great chemistry in the film."
Freddie Highmore

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
10/22/09	265	353	2 TVO	Super Structures (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		The Jury (Part 4 of 6) (N)		Masterworks (N)		Agenda-Paikin
primetime	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Survivor: Samoa (N)		The Office (N)	The Office	90210 "Unmasked" (N)		News Final
	215	343	4 OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Doc Zone "Lifelines" (N)		The Border "Killer Debt"		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Community (N)	Parks-Recreat	30 Rock	30 Rock	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	212	313	8 CTV	The Vampire Diaries		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)		The Mentalist (HDTV)		CTV News
	218	345	11 CHCH	*Air Bud: Golden Receiver* ★ (1998, Comedy-Drama)				*Slaughterhouse Five* ★★ (1972, Science Fiction)				News at 11 (N)
	137	763	13 TFO	Panorama		Météo	Volt	*Le Trou* ★★★ (1960, Drame) Michel Constantin, Marc Michel.				Expédition
	-	-	14 -	Family Guy	The Office	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Small Places
	213	326	15 SUN	The Insider (N)	Backstreet Boys	Live From London		Supernatural (HDTV)		The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	Becker
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Survivor: Samoa (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Mentalist (HDTV)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Community (N)	Parks-Recreat	The Office (N)	30 Rock	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	FlashForward (HDTV) (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		News
	219	346	20 ACH-B	TMZ (N)	Hollywood	FlashForward (HDTV) (N)		Fringe		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		A News
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy (N)	MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. (HDTV) (Live)						Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	My Hero	Doc Martin		Monarchy With David Starkey		MI-5 Militant ideas.		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	The Vampire Diaries		Supernatural (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331 SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: SVU		WBZ News	Frasier	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier
	298	653	332 TLA	The Tyra Show (N)		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Vamp. Diaries
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Marketplace	CBC News: Tonight (N)		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		CNN Presents "Latino in America: Chasing the Dream"				Cooper 360
	509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		Marijuana Inc.: Pot Industry		The NEW Age of Wal-Mart		Biography on CNBC (N)		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22 net	UFC: Access	MLB Preview	MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. (HDTV) (Live)						
	400	400	30 TSN	NHL Hockey New York Islanders at Montreal Canadiens. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre		That's Hockey!	SportsCentre
	411	457	58 OLN	Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	81 SC	Pass Time	NASCAR Hub	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Jacked!	Jacked!	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25 YTV	Drake & Josh	Family Biz	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline Proj
	554	544	45 TEL	Bugs Bunny	6teen: Dude of the		Majority Rules	Futurama	King of the Hill	*Buffy the Vampire Slayer* ★ (1992, Comedy)		
	556	540	51 FAM	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled! (N)	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	602	567	27 W	Old Christine	Friends	Friends	Grocery Bag	Confidential	Confidential	Divine Design	Divine Design	Don't Move
cable variety	570	580	29 MM	One Tree Hill		So You Think You Can Dance Canada		Dance		Love Court	Instant Star	One Tree Hill
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds "Jones"		The First 48 "Memphis"		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Crime 360
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	La Liceale Nella Classe del Ripetenti				George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez
	571	581	36 MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Wild 'n Out	Wild 'n Out	Storytellers		The Daily Fix
	575	583	38 CMT	Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Karaoke Star
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		Da Vinci's City Hall		The Best Years (DVS)		Saving Grace (HDTV) (N)		NCIS
	620	523	40 BVO	Storytellers	Camera	Bathroom Divas-Opera Star		*Inertia* ★★ (2001, Comedy-Drama) Jonas Chernick.				Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		X-Weighted		X-Weighted		X-Weighted "Jill"		ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	Ice Road Truckers		Ancient Discoveries		Underworld Histories		Life After People (N)		History
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Hot Box	Jon Dore Show	Daily Show
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes Inspection		Renovation	Disaster DIY	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes
	294	529	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU		*The Weather Man* (2005, Comedy-Drama)		
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Waist Deep* ★ (2006, Action) Tyrese Gibson, Larenz Tate.				The Game	The Game	Mo'Nique
	627	528	50 SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval		Eureka (N)		InnerSpace (N)
	581	566	52 MTV	The City	After	Disaster Date	Disaster Date	Fantasy Fact.	Nitro Circus (N)	Gone Too Far "Amy"		MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	TV Made, Do It	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	603	561	56 FOOD	Ricardo	Road Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Big Chef Takes on Little Chef		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Family
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		On the Buses	'Allo, 'Allo!	*Cocoon: The Return* ★★ (1988, Fantasy) Don Ameche, Wilford Brimley.				
	621	527	63 STR	Fashion	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Waybuloo	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Babar	Zigby	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101 TVA	La Fièvre de la danse (SC)		Dieu Merci (HDTV) (N) (SC)		Le Gentleman (N) (SC)		TVA nouvelles	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy "Lullaby"		Missing		The Closer (Part 2 of 2)		Da Vinci's Inquest		Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301 M1	(6:20) *Seven Pounds* (2008, Drama)			Nurse Jackie	*Baby on Board* (2008, Comedy) Jerry O'Connell.				Penn & Teller
	305	612	306 PIX	(6:30) *Ride With the Devil* (1999, Historical Drama)				*Training Day* ★★★ (2001, Crime Drama), Ethan Hawke				*Premonition* ★

critics'corner

Buffy the Vampire Slayer
Valley girl-turned-bloodsucker nemesis Buffy Summers first saw the light of day in this 1992 comedy-horror movie starring Kristy Swanson, Donald Sutherland and Luke Perry, but it's little more than a very rough draft for screenwriter Joss Whedon, who would polish his material into the critically acclaimed TV series with Sarah Michelle Gellar not long afterward. This film, however, suffers from jarring shifts of tone, making it little more than a curio for "Buffy" fans. 10 PM on TEL



The Office
After Pam and Jim (Jenna Fischer, John Krasinski) return from their honeymoon, Michael (Steve Carell) shocks them by revealing the identity of his new girlfriend. Dwight (Rainn Wilson) offers Jim a strange peace offering. Ed Helms and Angela Kinsey also star in the new episode "The Lover." 9 PM on GTV

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Ralston Saul to head PEN

Canadian author John Ralston Saul has been elected president of International PEN. Delegates of the literary organization, which promotes freedom of expression, voted him in yesterday in Linz, Austria. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Polanski's lawyers divided over surrender strategy

Lawyers for Roman Polanski clashed yesterday over his legal strategy, with one saying the director won't surrender to U.S. authorities after 31 years on the run and another suggesting that Polanski was ready to consider the move.

Attorney Herve Temime said there has been "no change in strategy," telling The Associated Press that Polanski will "continue to fight extradition" to the United States for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl.

Earlier Wednesday, fellow Polanski attorney Georges Kiejman told Europe 1 radio that Polanski could voluntarily return to face justice in Los Angeles.

Polanski has been pressing for his release since being arrested last month in Zurich. He suffered a major setback Tuesday when a Swiss criminal court rejected his offer of bail, saying his flight risk was too high.

Swiss officials tipped off the U.S. and set in motion the arrest of Polanski last month, according to documents obtained by the AP.

Yesterday, a top Swiss official defended the move. Justice Ministry spokesman Folco Galli said the emails — obtained in Los Angeles by the AP under a U.S. public records request — showed that Swiss officials followed proper police procedure when a wanted individual is expected in Switzerland.

"An arrest is a big operation," Galli told the AP. "If we know a wanted individual is coming, we always ask if the arrest warrant is valid."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JACQUES BRINON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Herve Temime, one of Roman Polanski's lawyers, pictured in Paris this week.

Google to launch music search pages

MUSIC Sources say that Google will launch music search pages next week with the ability to purchase songs for download. The music page will package a musician's or band's image, artwork, news and song previews, say the sources, along with a way to buy songs. Song previews and sales will come from Lala and iLike, a music recommendation application.

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Message in a bottle

The people at Twitter are getting into the wine business to raise money for a charity. The wines, released next summer, will be called Fledgling and will be a Twitter account "@fledgling" where followers can get updates on the grapes' progress. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Urban Foodie

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Rating: ●●
Dinner for 2: $70

The dining room is oddly shaped and modern in its decor. The waitress points out that it's meant to mimic the nearby opera house — the curtains, the soundproofing booth...

Ohhhh.

It's that type of corporate-y "let's go before the opera," (theatre menu avail) or "take our clients" kind of place that typically has good food but lacks the sexy vibe of other new restaurants.

The menu however, is interesting, extensive and it's hard to select just one thing.

Bread arrives accompanied by a white bean tapenade — and a hair. I don't mind except that our server is not at all apologetic.

Slow-Cooked Rabbit ($22), swathed in parpadelle, is cooked to a decadent softness. It is spectacular enough to sway a timid meat eater. My dish, the Garganelli Pasta ($18) is disappointingly soggy with an astringent sauce.

As our server clears our plates, she drops a fork a few feet away. It doesn't bother me until she kicks it ahead of her towards the kitchen. Would she have done that if we were a corporate group in suits?

There's great wine and fantastic rabbit, but thanks to the shoddy service, it's not enough to entice me back again.

On the web

- Get recipes and more great food content at metronews.ca/recipes

Garganelli Pasta ($18) from Forte Bistro & Lounge.

Global Peasant blog online

- Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.
- Check out metronews.ca/globalpeasant to watch Diane dish out barley risotto with green peas and basil.

Dining out

GIDDY UP TO THE BAR After an eight-day makeover, the former Rice Bar in Kensington Market has been transformed into Burger Bar. Checkered tablecloths and a western theme make it a perfect lunch spot for shoppers in the area. The menu includes Cheeseburger Spring Rolls, Waygu (Kobe) Beef Burger. burgerbar.ca

BLIND TASTNGS On Nov. 2 and 3, Dinner in the Dark, an event in support of the CNIB, is taking place. Hosted by Embrujo Flamenco Tapas Restaurant & Torres Wines, you will venture through a five-course Spanish meal blindfolded. Half of the proceeds go to the CNIB. Visit embrujoflamenco.com or call 416-778-0007.

In brief

CANADA COOKS Cooking with Canada's Best is a new cookbook that features Canada's best chefs with all of the proceeds being donated to autism research. It's available at Chapters/Indigo and cookingwithcanadasbest.com

XOCOCAVA Get a headstart on your holiday shopping with handmade chocolates at Xococava. Try the Black Trumpet Mushroom Chocolate Truffles. cavarestaurant.ca or 416-979-9918.

Hogan had a death wish

Hulk Hogan thought about killing himself when his marriage ended. The legendary wrestler got as far as picking up a gun to shoot himself when wife Linda Bollea filed for divorce he reveals in a new book. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Relationship thorn in Rosie household

WORKING ON ISSUES Rosie O'Donnell has confirmed that she and partner Kelli Carpenter are on the rocks, usmagazine.com reports. In a new interview with USA Today, she says, "We're a family. We will remain a family forever. And we are working on our issues."

The 47-year-old O'Donnell — who has been suggesting a split on her blog — wouldn't confirm a National Enquirer report that Carpenter, 42, has moved out of their Nyack, NY, home and into Manhattan. (USA Today notes that Carpenter was not at the house during the interview.)

O'Donnell noted that the well-being of their four children — Parker, 14, Chelsea, 12 and Blake, 9, and Vivienne (Vivi), 6 — is top priority. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Brit's romance with agent mom-approved

HE'S THE ONE After a rocky romance with paparazzo Adnan Ghalib and a devastating marriage to Kevin Federline, Britney Spears has found love with agent Jason Trawick — and her mother, Lynne, thinks he is The One, Us Weekly reports in its latest issue.

Lynne said, 'He's the kind of man you would dream of your daughter marrying. The kids love him, and he's stable,'" a friend tells Us Weekly. Trawick, 37, stood by Spears, 27, during her darkest moments (she was involuntarily committed twice to a psychiatric hospital in 2008 and lost custody of sons Sean, 4, and Jayden, 3, the year before).

"Most everyone else abandoned her, but Jason refused to be completely cut out of Britney's life," says a source.

Besides his quick wit and ability to make her laugh in any situation, sources tell Us Trawick accepts Spears — drama and all.

"She has been honest with Jason about what she's been through in a way that I don't think she's been with other people," says a pal. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity tweets

LL Cool J isn't going to let the cold weather keep him down, Stephen Fry isn't ashamed of his musical preferences,and Katy Perry knows what she wants for her birthday.

• @llcoolj
In the depth of winter I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer.

• @stephenfry
I suppose I'd sound such an arse if I admitted that I was unreasonably cheered up by Karen Carpenter's singing this am. But I was. So there.

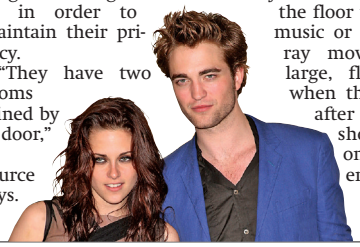
• @katyperry
Maybe I'll get lucky this week & get a birthday shout out from a shakey's pizza sign. Always wanted one of them. That's Katy with a Y pls :)

Kristen, Robert shack up in hotel?

SUITE TALK Twilight co-stars Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson are reportedly living together while in Vancouver to film the latest in the popular franchise.

According to More magazine, the pair has rented out an entire floor of the Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel — with each suite running $850 a night — in order to maintain their privacy.

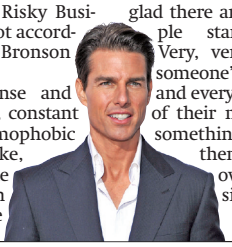
"They have two rooms joined by a door," a source says. "They use a third suite on the floor to listen to music or watch Blu-ray movies on a large, flat screen, when they stay in after a day's shooting or on weekends." METRO WORLD NEWS



Blast from Cruise's past

ONE FROM A CO-STAR It turns out Tom Cruise wasn't making a lot of friends way back when on the set of his breakout film Risky Business, at least not according to co-star Bronson Pinchot.

"He was tense and made constant, constant unrelated homophobic comments, like, 'You want some ice cream, in case there are no gay people there?'" Pinchot tells the AV Club. "There was no basis for it. It was like, 'It's a nice day, I'm glad there are no gay people standing here.' Very, very strange. If someone's 20 years old and every third line out of their mouth is anti-something specific, then draw your own conclusion." METRO WORLD NEWS



Lilo's situation 'tragic': Pal

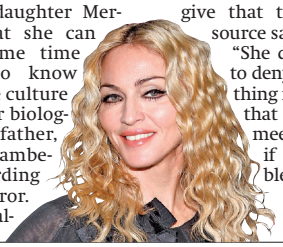
CONCERNED It's not just Lindsay Lohan's parents that are worried about the troubled starlet. Her friends are speaking out, too. "The situation with Lindsay is absolutely tragic, uncontrollable — and it's only getting worse," a pal says. METRO WORLD NEWS

Madge, Mercy plan culture trip

MALAWI CALLING Madonna is reportedly heading back to Malawi with adopted daughter Mercy so that she can spend some time getting to know her native culture — and her biological father, James Kambewa, according to the Mirror.

"She realizes her kids need a sense of home and she's determined to do all she can to give that to them," a source says.

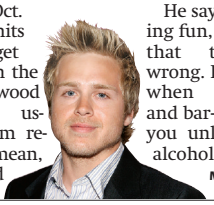
"She doesn't want to deny Mercy anything in life — and that includes meeting her dad if that's possible." METRO WORLD NEWS



Pratt blames it on Hollywood

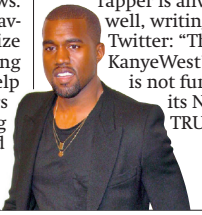
PARTY PROBLEM Spencer Pratt — whose sister Stephanie was arrested for DUI Oct. 18 — admits it's easy to get caught up in the wild Hollywood lifestyle, usmagazine.com reports. "I mean, I've had problems with drinking in Hollywood, but who doesn't?" Pratt tells MTV News.

He says when you're having fun, it's hard to realize that there's anything wrong. It also doesn't help when club promoters and bar-goers are "giving you unlimited high-end alcohol," he says. METRO WORLD NEWS



RIP Kanye West tweets laid to rest

ALIVE AND WELL "RIP Kanye West" was still the top trending topic on the micro-blogging site Twitter hours after someone made up an unscrupulous rumour that Kanye West died in a car crash. The Kanye West Dead hoax was also the top Google search in the U.S. early yesterday morning. West's girlfriend Amber Rose put rumours to rest saying the rapper is alive and well, writing on Twitter: "This 'RIP KanyeWest' topic is not funny and its NOT TRUE!" METRO NEWS SERVICES



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Saturday Showers 80% 16° / 5°
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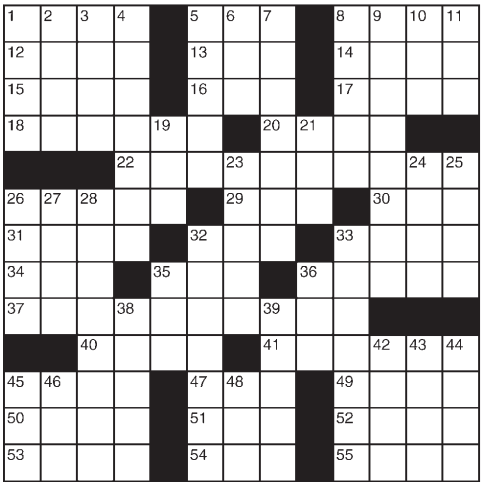


ACROSS

1 Boutique
5 Suitcase
8 Unuttered "alas"
12 Lawrence Berra
13 Id counterpart
14 Dandling site
15 Dealer's foe
16 Scarlet
17 Misfortunes
18 Nativity setup
20 Get steamed up 22 E.T.'s venue
26 Grown-up
29 Churchill's gesture
30 Needle-fish
31 "And — bed": Pepys
32 Plaything
33 Mine, in part
34 Dead heat
35 Stir-fry pan
36 Clumsy
37 Nirvana, maybe
40 "Simon —"
41 Method
45 Use a wooden spoon
47 Vanna's cohort
49 Matador's foe
50 War, to Gen. Sherman
51 Altar affirmative
52 Once more, in the Ozarks
53 Simple
54 Neither mate
55 Poolroom triangle

DOWN

1 Harmonization
2 Frost
3 Shrek is one
4 Small flute
5 Jaunty chapeau
6 Time of your life?
7 Arthur of old TV
8 Cut corners
9 Collaborating (with)
10 Hairspray alternative
11 Guys
19 Shack
21 Exploit
23 Bring out
24 Kvetch
25 Formerly, formerly
26 Italian wine region
27 Slay
28 Knife and fork, e.g.
32 Tennis tactic
33 Low-rated, as a hotel or a movie
35 Distort
36 Unfriendly
38 Way before deadline
39 Nancy, the first woman in Parliament
42 Frat-party garb
43 Idle of Monty Python
44 Tony Shalhoub series
45 The woman
46 Afternoon affair
48 Commotion

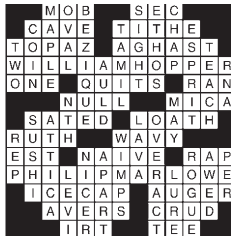
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	6		5		7		4	
		1	2		4	3		
8								6
		8		9		5		
3								8
		9		7		2		
6								4
		2	8		9	6		
	1		3		6		5	

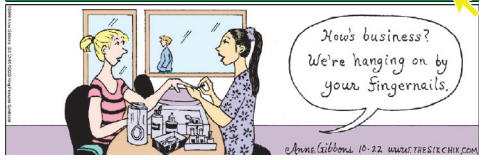
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



3	5	7	6	1	8	2	9	4
2	4	8	3	5	9	6	1	7
1	6	9	2	4	7	3	5	8
4	3	5	9	2	1	7	8	6
9	8	6	5	7	3	1	4	2
7	2	1	8	6	4	5	3	9
6	9	2	1	8	5	4	7	3
8	1	4	7	3	6	9	2	5
5	7	3	4	9	2	8	6	1

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

ALICIA MCAULEY PHOTO

Coconut Red Curry Chicken with Tomatoes

Submitted by Maria Nickel, Winnipeg

INGREDIENTS:

1 can (14 oz) coconut milk
1-2 tbsp brown sugar
1/2 cup of chicken or beef stock
1 tsp red curry paste (you can use more if you want the dish to be spicier)
2 tbsp fish sauce
1 pint of grape tomatoes, halved
1 can mushroom stems and pieces with juice
1 zucchini (medium size) chopped into small pieces
1 orange pepper (optional; you can also use red or yellow, medium sized)
3 chicken breasts, cut into 1/2-inch slices
2 tbsp cornstarch mixed with 4-6 tbsp. of cold water
2 cups of jasmine rice

PREPARATION:

1. In a two-quart saucepan, add the coconut milk, red curry paste, chicken stock, sugar, fish sauce and tomatoes and simmer over medium heat for eight minutes, stir constantly.
2. Cook jasmine rice as directed on the package.
3. While coconut mixture is simmering, add the chicken, peppers, mushrooms and zucchini and simmer for another 12 minutes or until the meat is cooked thoroughly.
4. Mix the cornstarch and water together and then add to the pot. Mix until the curry thickens. If it doesn't thicken, add more cornstarch and water to it.
5. Serve over jasmine rice.

SERVES 4
PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 35 MINUTES

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Someone thinks you are the bee's knees and the best thing since sliced bread. And you are. But don't let flattery go to your head.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
There may be many chores you would like to avoid, but you can't, so quit your wishful thinking and get on with them.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Venus, planet of love, is transiting the most passionate area of your chart, so let those you are closest to emotionally know how you really feel.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
It will pay for you to be less assertive today. You don't need to prove yourself. You don't need to impress people.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
This is a day for enjoying yourself and socializing. Forget about work and money issues — there will be plenty of time to take care of them later.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Family and financial matters are under exceptionally good stars. You will know instinctively what you need to do to put things right.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Venus in your sign makes it easy for you to win others around to your way of thinking. That's good because as of tomorrow you may need them.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
The more you ask for this week, the more you will get. And the more you get the more you will want.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Why so glum when every cosmic indicator suggests that good things are coming your way?

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Now is one of those times when even Capricorns must take certain things on trust. That applies especially to your career, an area in which you must move quickly.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Something will inspire you over the next few days. Something will seize your imagination and make you aware of how much more is possible.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You need to remind yourself today that most people in the world are just like you. But it may sometimes appear as if certain individuals are unreasonable.

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MILLION*

	NAME	NUMBERS	SIGNATURE	PHONE	$	PAID
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2		QUICK PICK				
3		QUICK PICK				
4		QUICK PICK				
5		QUICK PICK				
6		QUICK PICK				
7		QUICK PICK				
8		QUICK PICK				
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10		QUICK PICK				
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12		QUICK PICK				
13		QUICK PICK				
14		QUICK PICK				
15		QUICK PICK				

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